

THE MONDAY Chronicle

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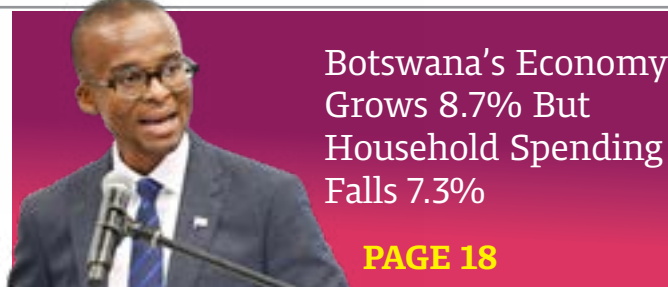
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Ratshukudu
delivers double
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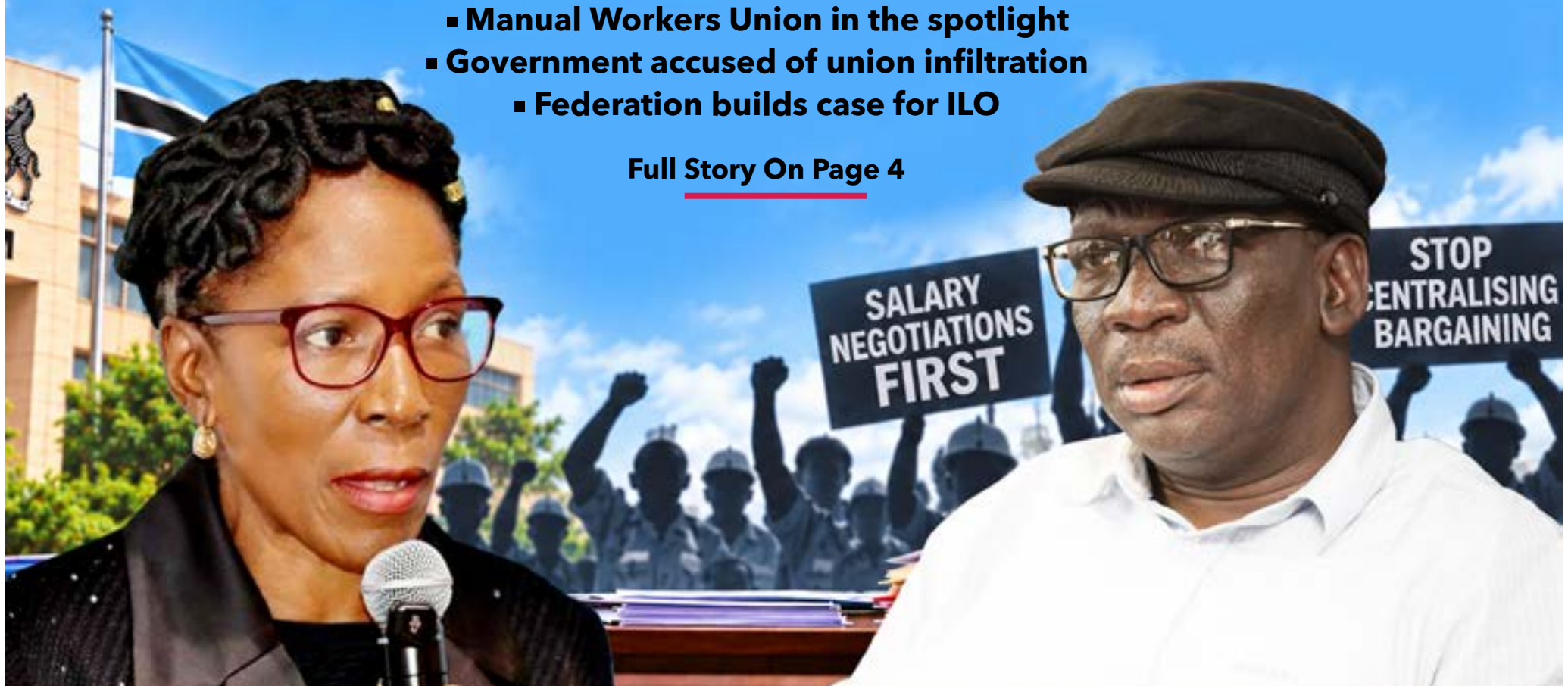
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Row Erupts Over Bargaining Council Workshop

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- Media barred at eleventh hour
- Manual Workers Union in the spotlight
- Government accused of union infiltration
- Federation builds case for ILO

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STOP PRESS

JOINT STATEMENT

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD ON THE 5TH AND 6TH OCTOBER 2026 AT PHAKALANE GOLF ESTATE HOTEL & CONVENTION IN GABORONE

The Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) and six trade unions being Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU), Botswana Doctors Union (BDU), Botswana Nurses Union (BONU), Botswana Teachers Union (BTU), Botswana Landboards, Local Authorities and Health Workers Union (BLLAHWU) and Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU) wish to inform Public

Service Employees and key stakeholders that the parties will be holding a collective bargaining workshop from the 5th to the 6th October 2026. The workshop is facilitated by the International Labour Organization (ILO) Pretoria office, the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council (BSCBC) from South Africa and an academic from the University of Botswana.

The purpose of the workshop is to enable the parties to come to common understanding on, among other topics;

collective bargaining as an institution, challenges and opportunities of various levels of collective bargaining, international and regional best practices of collective bargaining, recognition agreements and representation in collective bargaining, as well as sustainable social dialogue. By and large, the workshop will assist the parties to have meaningful engagements in the future, and encourage them to design more progressive institutional frameworks.

Row Erupts Over Bargaining Council Workshop

- Unions divided over boycott
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GOITSEMODIMO KAELO

A fresh row has erupted between government and the Botswana Federation of Public, Private and Parastatal Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU) over a collective bargaining council workshop scheduled for October 5 and 6.

The workshop, which is expected to bring together key players in public service labour relations, will proceed despite BOFEPUSU's attempts to have it stopped through the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The ILO's Pretoria office has confirmed its participation, even as the federation maintains that salary negotiations and other pressing concerns should take priority.

Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) Director General Gaone Macholo told The Monday Chronicle that the workshop was important and government looked forward to it despite some unions indicating that they would not attend.

Macholo said all unions, including the Manual Workers Union, had been invited. Her account counters allegations that the Manual Workers Union was excluded from the invitation letter circulated



▲ ABOVE: DPSM Director General Gaone Macholo

to trade unions.

She said the Manual Workers Union had not responded, while two other unions had confirmed in writing that they would not attend.

"This is a very important exercise," Macholo said, adding that both government and the unions stood to learn from international best practice shared by the ILO and other bargaining bodies.

According to sources close to the developments, four of BOFEPUSU's affiliated unions have so far confirmed that they will not attend, raising questions about whether the federation's members are united over the boycott.

BOFEPUSU, however, has maintained that the

workshop should not proceed in its current form.

Federation secretary general Robert Rabasimane said yesterday that government had shown little willingness to engage meaningfully with trade unions. He questioned the rationale for proceeding with the workshop while critical labour issues remained unresolved.

"We believe that the workshop should not be prioritised over other pressing issues. Trade union leaders know these things and can always find a way to organise this workshop if at all it is necessary," Rabasimane said.

He said the employer appeared to be overlooking issues directly affecting

workers while investing energy in an exercise that, in the federation's view, would not address public servants' immediate challenges.

According to the invitation letter, the workshop is intended to promote a common understanding of the principles, processes and institutional arrangements underpinning collective bargaining in the public service.

It will also provide an opportunity for participants to share experiences and learn from established bargaining councils in the region, with a view to strengthening collective

BOFEPUSU Takes Centralised Bargaining Fight To ILO

The Botswana Federation of Public, Private and Parastatal Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU) has taken its public service collective bargaining dispute back to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), accusing government of trying to weaken decentralised negotiations and trade union rights.

GOITSEMODIMO KAELO

In a letter dated 10 August 2026, secretary general Robert Ronny Rabasimane and president Gotlamang Oitsile said government's reported plans for centralised bargaining threatened existing union recognition agreements.

BOFEPUSU supports a functional Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC), but says it should complement negotiations between individual unions and the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM).

"We are not opposed to a functional PSBC," Rabasimane said.

"We supported its re-establishment precisely because we want effective national-level bargaining on issues of common interest such as general salary adjustments and conditions that cut across the service."

The federation wants a two-tier arrangement, with common public service issues negotiated centrally and sector-specific matters handled through decentralised bargaining.



ABOVE: Rabasimane

"Centralised bargaining will centralise power in one structure and one process and will effectively kill decentralised bargaining," Rabasimane said.

"Teachers, nurses and administrative staff cannot and should not be lumped into one basket under the circumstances."

The dispute follows years of difficulties in establishing an effective public service bargaining framework.

Government said in 2019 that the PSBC had collapsed in 2017 following misunderstandings between the parties.

Attempts to revive it culminated in government and seven recognised public sector unions signing its constitution in October 2025.

The revived council provided for equal representation between

government and unions, with decisions reached through consensus.

Disagreements nevertheless persisted. During the 2025 wage negotiations, the Botswana Landboards and Local Authorities Health Workers Union (BLLAHWU) reached a separate salary agreement with government. Other unions challenged it, arguing that it undermined collective bargaining.

The dispute reached the Court of Appeal before being overtaken by a comprehensive settlement between government and unions in October 2025.

BOFEPUSU also objects to what it describes as the removal of Public Service Act reforms from the Labour Law Review Committee (LLRC), saying this denied organised labour full participation in shaping legislation

governing public officers.

The labour-law review began in 2017 as a tripartite process involving government, employers and workers, with ILO technical assistance, to align legislation with international labour standards and court decisions.

The concerns also arise against the backdrop of the 2026 Public Service Bill, which seeks to replace existing legislation and provide a framework for collective bargaining, union recognition and sectoral bargaining councils. Parliament lists the Bill as passed.

BOFEPUSU says reports that DPSM intends to alter recognition agreements are particularly troubling. Rabasimane described these agreements as

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Row Erupts Over Bargaining Council Workshop

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bargaining arrangements in Botswana's public service.

The ILO is expected to participate alongside South Africa's Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council, Public Services International, local labour law practitioners and academics with expertise in collective bargaining and labour law.

Their involvement will bring regional and international perspectives to discussions on relations between government as an employer and public sector unions.

Journalists were meanwhile informed at the eleventh hour that media attendance had been cancelled. Reasons were reportedly communicated to the media, although no detailed explanation was immediately available.

The dispute comes amid broader disagreements over government's alleged plans to centralise collective bargaining.

BOFEPUSU maintains that meaningful engagement should first address workers' immediate concerns, particularly salary



negotiations, while government views the workshop as an opportunity to strengthen bargaining arrangements.

The Manual Workers Union has also come under the spotlight, with sources alleging that it is among those pushing for a boycott.

The row has exposed tensions within the public sector labour movement, amid claims that some union leaders have adopted positions favourable to government.

Government has previously faced accusations of attempting to infiltrate or influence

trade unions, with critics alleging that some leaders have sided with the employer at the expense of workers' interests.

BOFEPUSU has rejected suggestions that its stance is anti-government, insisting that its concerns are rooted in protecting workers and strengthening genuine collective bargaining.

The federation recently approached the ILO in an effort to block the workshop. The labour organisation is yet to formally respond to BOFEPUSU's latest correspondence.

Sources say the ILO

had already written to the federation in August, advising its leadership to attend the workshop.

That communication appears to have done little to resolve the disagreement, with BOFEPUSU pursuing its concerns through further engagement with the organisation.

The federation is now reportedly building a case for Botswana to appear before the ILO in 2027. Such a move could widen the dispute if the issues raised are formally taken up by the labour organisation.

For BOFEPUSU, the disagreement extends beyond the workshop to what it regards as deteriorating relations between government and organised labour, and the need for workers to have a stronger voice in decisions affecting their livelihoods.

Macholo, however, expressed hope that government would eventually sit down with unions boycotting the event, saying the employer and organised labour needed each other to serve workers' interests.

BOFEPUSU Takes Centralised Bargaining Fight To ILO

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the legal foundation for unions to represent workers, access workplace facilities and negotiate substantive employment matters.

"If all matters of conditions of service are determined at a central table, Recognition Agreements become

meaningless," he said.

Botswana ratified ILO Convention 87 on freedom of association and Convention 98 on the right to organise and collective bargaining in 1997.

The ILO has previously scrutinised the country's public service bargaining arrangements, including

complaints concerning the Public Service Act, the PSBC and unilateral changes to employment conditions.

For BOFEPUSU, the appeal centres on protecting unions' ability to negotiate issues specific to their members while supporting national

coordination.

"We remain committed to dialogue and to making the PSBC work," Rabasimane said.

"However, we will not accept a reform that, under the guise of efficiency, erodes trade union rights and silences workers at sector level."

BCP Demands Opening Of FMD-Free Areas

The Botswana Congress Party (BCP) has called for the immediate opening of areas declared free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), arguing that continued restrictions are preventing farmers from earning income from their cattle despite surveillance showing no infections in several areas.



▲ BCP shadow Minister for Lands and Agriculture Dr Kesitegile Gobotswang

BOIKANYO MATHONSI

In a statement, BCP shadow Minister for Lands and Agriculture Kesitegile Gobotswang urged the government to allow controlled local slaughter and cattle sales in disease-free areas. Gobotswang's call comes as Botswana continues to manage FMD outbreaks and movement restrictions, with veterinary authorities maintaining containment measures in affected areas. He cited a Department of Veterinary Services release which found no FMD west of the A1 in Zones 9, 10 and 13.

"The latest surveillance information gives us a basis to distinguish between areas where there is an active outbreak and areas where there is no evidence of disease. We are not saying that the government should remove controls from infected areas. What we are saying is that where surveillance has confirmed that there is no FMD, those areas should not continue to be treated in the same way as areas where the disease is present," Gobotswang said. He said the restrictions directly affected farmers who depended on cattle for income and household

support.

"Cattle are the rural bank. For many rural households, cattle are not simply animals kept in the field, they are an important form of savings and a source of income when a family needs money. If farmers in clean areas have cattle that they cannot sell or use to support their households because markets remain restricted, then we are effectively preventing them from accessing the value of an asset they have worked for," he said. Gobotswang said the government had demonstrated that controlled slaughter

could be carried out safely by allowing it for Independence celebrations and other social events. He questioned why similar controls could not support farmers beyond the holiday period.

"If on farm slaughter and permit free movement of fresh product inside Zone 11 are safe enough for Independence gatherings, they are safe enough for a household that has to eat and a farmer who has to sell. We are therefore asking why the same controls and safeguards cannot be used beyond the holiday period to allow farmers in clean areas to participate in the local economy," he said.

The BCP proposed opening areas confirmed free of FMD for licensed local slaughter and traceable offtake, while maintaining restrictions in infected and high-risk locations.

"Active outbreak is a reason but absence of disease is also a reason, and it is the reason the clean areas should now be opened. Where there is an active outbreak, restrictions are understandable. But where surveillance has established that the area is clean, there should be a controlled mechanism that allows farmers to sell their cattle and earn a living without compromising the disease control strategy," he said.

Study Brings Forgotten Batšaiti Queen Regent Out Of The Shadows

A new academic study is bringing Queen Regent Tšonosantakhwee of the Batšaiti back into Botswana's historical record, tracing the life of a ruler remembered largely through oral traditions.

RIGHT: ►

Dr Bryan Keitseman

NNASARETHA KGAMANYANE



Political scientist and author Dr Bryan Keitseman, from Mopipi, has published the paper in the International Journal of Social Sciences Research as part of iReason Publishers' Boteti Research Series. Tšonosantakhwee was also his paternal great-grandmother.

The Batšaiti, also known as Caite, were a Khoi-speaking pastoral community along the Boteti River whose identity was later subsumed under the broader colonial label of "Basarwa".

Keitseman describes them as a distinct polity with their own territory, political structures and royal house. He places their Baganetseng dynasty from roughly the late seventeenth century until the kingdom's collapse in the late nineteenth century.

Water and grazing supported an economy centred on sheep and later cattle. Livestock provided food and wealth

while shaping status and political relationships.

Tšonosantakhwee participated in the royal council, resisted the treatment of her people as commodities and assumed the regency when her younger brother, King Baganetseng, became critically ill.

Keitseman argues that overlapping historical processes pushed her into obscurity. The Batšaiti lost their distinct political identity as their people were absorbed into neighbouring communities, including the Deti-khoi and Xane-Khoi.

Their history was subsequently folded into broad categories such as "Basarwa" and "Khoisan", obscuring differences between communities.

Tšonosantakhwee was also a woman in a system where succession followed male primogeniture. Her community was poorly represented in the national

archive, leaving elders in Mopipi to preserve her memory through oral accounts and poetry. One poem describes her words as burning like a raging flame.

A central finding concerns her resistance to internal slave trading. The study distinguishes bolata, or slavery, from bothhanka, or servitude, arguing that the treatment of Batšaiti people amounted to slavery because they were regarded as transferable property.

As larger polities expanded, the Batšaiti became militarily vulnerable. Following conflict, peace arrangements reportedly required them to provide women as concubines and young people as unpaid labour. Batšaiti people were later transferred to the Batawana and sold through slave-trading networks, the study says.

During her regency, Tšonosantakhwee sought to disrupt the trade relationship

between her brother and King Letsholathebe of the Batawana. According to the study, she intercepted a planned exchange and organised an ambush of the Batawana delegation.

For Keitseman, her resistance challenged whether a nation could be protected through practices that destroyed its people.

She consulted elders, presided over disputes and made final decisions for a population estimated at more than 3,000. When cattle arrived as a supposed gift for the ailing king, she distributed them among ordinary people through the Mafisa system, consolidating her authority.

Keitseman argues that her leadership shows precolonial political systems were not uniformly male spaces: authority could also rest on performance and popular support.

Reconstructing her life also raises questions about what counts as an archive. Relying only on written colonial or state records risks excluding people whose histories survive through oral traditions and indigenous knowledge, he says.

He hopes the study encourages historians to widen their sources, helps young Botswana see beyond textbook accounts and enables Batšaiti descendants to reclaim an identity obscured by broader historical labels.



Elephant Feast Sparks Conservation Showdown

Government defends community benefits as Khama questions the Jubilee hunts and local critics challenge conservation and meat distribution

CHRONICLE REPORTER

Botswana's 60th Independence celebrations have left a fierce argument over the meat on the table, as government defends elephant hunts as a community benefit and former president Ian Khama questions the precedent they set.

Government authorised the hunting of 23 elephants across eight districts for the Diamond Jubilee on 30 September. The initiative also covered other animals like kudu, antelope amongst others.

Elephant meat is already consumed in some wildlife-rich communities when legal hunts provide it. The Jubilee decision put that practice at the centre of a national celebration.

Environment and Tourism Minister Wynter Mmolotsi says the allocated elephants were problem animals damaging crops, boreholes and fences around settlements, with some attacks resulting in injuries and deaths.

Department of Wildlife

and National Parks deputy director Dimakatso Ntshebe defended the initiative.

"Wildlife conservation must deliver meaningful benefits to the communities that live alongside wildlife and contribute to its protection," he told the Associated Press.

Mmolotsi has told Ntlo ya Dikgosi that hunting quotas draw on population estimates, animal distribution, harvest rates, poaching, natural deaths and human-wildlife conflict hotspots. His position is that regulated hunting can support conservation while rewarding communities carrying its costs.

The economic argument extends beyond a free meal. It has been reported that community hunting quotas generated approximately P42.9 million during the 2024 season. Special elephant quotas separately raised P15.6 million for conservation and

community projects in elephant habitats.

Khama argues that using wildlife for national celebrations could normalise hunting and create expectations that animals will be provided for future events. He proposed buying domestic animals from struggling farmers instead.

"It sets a precedent and expectations for future anniversaries and national events to be provided the same," he told the media.

He has also questioned whether hunting revenues reach households in wildlife areas and the targeting of mature elephant bulls, which he considers valuable to photographic tourism.

Mmolotsi's response challenged Khama's authority. He said Khama could provide cattle to his tribe but could not reverse government's elephant offer to Serowe.

The dispute revives a policy division dating to Khama's 2014 hunting ban, lifted under Mokgweetsi Masisi in 2019. Hunting has

continued under President Duma Boko.

Elephant Protection Society chairman Oaitse Nawa warned that celebratory killing could undermine conservation and encourage poaching.

Botswana's elephant population is central to the debate. The 2022 Kavango Zambezi survey estimated 131,909 elephants in Botswana's survey area. African savanna elephants nevertheless remain endangered across their wider range.

A 2024 Elephants Without Borders analysis found no significant overall change in northern Botswana's elephant numbers between 2010 and 2022, while recording local differences and concerns about mortality and poaching.

International disagreement predates the Jubilee. In 2024, Masisi responded to British and German criticism of trophy hunting by offering to send tens of thousands of elephants to those countries.

Kasane To Host Third Annual Sustainable Recycling And Waste Management Summit

CHRONICLE REPORTER

Kasane is set to host the third Annual Sustainable Recycling and Waste Management Summit on 7 and 8 October 2026 at Cresta Mowana Safari Lodge & Spa, bringing together stakeholders to discuss practical approaches to waste management, recycling and the circular economy.

The two-day summit will be followed by community engagement activities on 9 October, including litter-picking, environmental awareness and capacity-building initiatives aimed at turning conference discussions into practical community action.

Organised by Rolink Noble Health (Pty) Ltd, the summit will be held under



the theme “Sustainable Pathways: Turning Ideas into Action through Solutions, Opportunities & Finance.”

According to the organisers, this year’s edition aims to move beyond awareness and policy dialogue towards practical implementation. Discussions are expected to cover environmentally sound waste management, recycling and resource

recovery, circular economy opportunities, emerging technologies, institutional capacity, policy frameworks and financing for sustainable environmental initiatives.

The event seeks to bring together representatives from government, local authorities, the private sector, academia, civil society, communities and other organisations involved in environmental

management.

Rolink Noble Health said lessons from the previous editions, held in 2024 and 2025, had highlighted the need for continued collaboration and practical interventions to address waste management challenges.

“We want to leave a long-lasting impact in terms of recycling and waste management because we believe that waste is not waste until it is wasted,” the organisers said.

They said the annual gathering aims to encourage waste reduction, recycling and responsible disposal, while promoting waste as a resource that can support economic opportunities and environmental protection.



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Botswana Must Build A 'Second Geology' Beyond Diamonds — Mothibedi

RIGHT: ►

Nako Timepieces founder and director Gabriel Mothibedi

NNASARETHA KGAMANYANE



Botswana must turn its diamond wealth into knowledge, skilled enterprises and products that can compete globally, says Nako Timepieces founder and director Mothibedi, a University of Botswana lecturer and research scholar in governance and public policy for innovation and design, makes the case in his latest essay, *After the Diamond: Design as a Competitive Strategy for Economic Governance and National Development*.

"A diamond is a peculiar form of memory," he writes.

At 60 years of independence, he argues, Botswana must consider what it can build around the resource that has financed roads, classrooms, hospitals and public institutions.

"The next chapter of Botswana's diamond story may therefore be written less in carats than in capability," he says.

He distinguishes between possessing value and producing it. A diamond mined in Botswana may be cut, set and designed elsewhere, then sold under a foreign brand through a customer relationship Botswana never sees.

"Beneficiation must ultimately be assessed not merely by where processing takes place,

but by where knowledge, intellectual property, skilled employment, supplier relationships, earnings and technical authority accumulate," he says.

The question is who conceives and engineers the product, owns its design, sets its standards, controls the customer relationship and learns from its failures.

Mothibedi describes enterprise as a "second geology": the capability Botswana must build on its natural inheritance.

"Enterprise, in the deeper developmental sense, is the institutional ability to organise knowledge around opportunity," he says.

He describes this as converting diamonds into a design industry, hides into a leather goods ecosystem and metals into precision components, with ideas progressing through prototypes, products and brands into an export economy.

Design is central to that process, shaping what a

society makes and how knowledge becomes a commercially viable product.

"The most sophisticated economies manufacture more than objects. They manufacture confidence," he says.

"The strongest version of design is almost invisible. One sees the watch, not the hundreds of judgements behind the watch."

But this requires practical skills. Citing a September 2026 World Economic Forum white paper, Mothibedi notes that maker-intensive occupations account for more than 60 per cent of employment on average across Sub-Saharan Africa.

He describes machinists who understand fractions of a millimetre, setters who work with metal and stone, and technicians who recognise when a watch movement does not sound right.

Botswana, he argues, must develop people capable of using, maintaining and improving machines through practical learning in schools, modern technical and vocational education and training, apprenticeships and closer university-industry collaboration.

Drawing on the British Design Council's 2026 research, he cites the UK design economy's £136.7

billion in gross value added in 2023 and 2.27 million workers in 2025.

He argues that design should be treated as a capability across the economy. A National Design System should connect universities, factories and workshops, sharing expertise and equipment across the country.

Using his own company, Nako Watch Co., as a case study, he illustrates how components, manufacturing standards, testing, documentation and repairs must work together.

"A watch is a small country," he writes. Luxury, he adds, is unforgiving of fragmentation.

For a small economy, he advocates "staged sovereignty": owning the design, intellectual property, specifications, archives, customer relationship and standards, while progressively internalising functions that generate knowledge, resilience and strategic value.

Ultimately, Mothibedi argues, the deepest form of beneficiation lies in the human capability developed around the diamond.

"That is the larger ambition. Not the abandonment of the diamond, its intellectual completion."

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Finance & Corporate

Chief Financial Officer

Establish budgets, cash-flow forecasts and expenditure controls. Oversee payroll, supplier and milestone payments, reconciliations, tax reporting and audits; link mobilisation commitments to receipts and working capital.

Requirements: Degree in Accounting, Finance or Business Administration and an advanced qualification such as CA; a recognised professional accounting qualification is preferred. At least 8 years of finance experience, including 5 in a senior role. Experience establishing multi-site project controls, cost allocation, commitment reporting and audit records; ability to apply Botswana reporting and tax requirements.

Financial Director

Manage budgets, forecasts, accounts and reporting. Review expenditure and variances, maintain accounting records and support programme financial planning.

Requirements: Degree in Accounting or Finance; professional accounting qualification preferred. At least 6 years' relevant experience, preferably in project or programme finance.

HR Consultant

Support phased recruitment, induction, contracts, employee relations and performance processes. Maintain personnel records and payroll inputs; track contract obligations and coordinate specialist Botswana employment advice.

Requirements: Degree or diploma in Human Resources, Industrial Relations or a related field. At least 5 years' HR experience, with sound knowledge of recruitment, contracts and employee relations. Practical HR record-keeping, contract administration and support for dispersed project teams.

Admin Officer

Manage office records and correspondence, controlled document versions, meeting minutes and action registers. Coordinate travel and meetings; track purchasing and expense-claim documents.

Requirements: Diploma in Business Administration, Office Administration or a related field. 2-3 years' administrative experience and good computer, record-keeping and organisational skills. Accurate document control, meeting records and confident use of office software.

Programme Management

National Project Manager

Lead delivery across 1,013 schools. Coordinate workstreams, budgets and stakeholders; align staff, equipment, school readiness and educator training with phased rollout and verified delivery.

Requirements: Degree in Project Management, Education, Business or a related field; project management certification preferred. At least 8 years' experience managing large, multi-site programmes. Ability to coordinate multidisciplinary teams, budgets, government stakeholders and measurable delivery outcomes.

Deputy Project Manager

Maintain integrated procurement, platform, training and field schedules. Consolidate action and dependency registers, verify completion evidence, follow up commitments and escalate delays.

Requirements: Degree in Project Management, Business, Education or a related field. At least 5 years' project management experience, with strong planning, reporting and coordination skills. Practical experience tracking interdependent activities across multiple delivery locations.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Quality Assurance Manager

Establish indicators, baselines, reporting tools and data ownership. Verify field and system evidence, analyse results, conduct quality checks and track corrective actions.

Requirements: Degree in Monitoring and Evaluation, Statistics, Social Sciences, Education or a related field. At least 5 years' experience in M&E or quality assurance. Skills in indicator design, data-quality controls, analysis and evidence-based reporting; strong spreadsheet skills. Ability to reconcile school data and document quality findings and corrective actions.

Programme Logistics and CRM Coordinator

Coordinate suppliers, procurement, deliveries and CRM/helpdesk requests. Align delivery with school readiness and training; maintain stock, dispatch, receipt and issue records.

Requirements: Diploma or degree in Logistics, Supply Chain, Business Administration or a related field. At least 3 years' relevant experience, with good coordination and record-keeping skills. Ability to maintain traceable procurement, delivery and service-request records.

Technology & LMS

Chief Technology Officer

Lead technology strategy and governance for learning platforms, infrastructure, cybersecurity and data protection. Set architecture, integration, access, backup, recovery and change controls. Direct ICT teams and suppliers; assess capacity, connectivity, device readiness and support across schools.

Requirements: Degree in Computer Science, Engineering, Information Systems or a related field, or equivalent senior technology experience with relevant professional development. At least 8 years' ICT experience, including 3 in senior technology management. Evidence of architecture governance, information security, infrastructure and service management, technology budgets and team leadership. Experience establishing system ownership, supplier access controls, recovery testing and phased technical readiness.

LMS Engineer

Develop, integrate and maintain the LMS. Support APIs, identity and database integration, performance and fault resolution. Use source control, code review and tested deployment processes; document releases, rollback, recovery and operational handover.

Requirements: Degree or diploma in Software Engineering, Computer Science or ICT. At least 3 years' experience in LMS development, systems integration or software support. Practical ability to test integrations, troubleshoot production faults and release changes without disrupting learning; maintain clear technical documentation.

LMS Operations Officer

Administer learner records, enrolments, user roles, course access and content publishing through documented approvals and checks. Monitor learning activity and support requests; reproduce faults, record their impact and escalate with evidence. Maintain service records and flag recurring issues.

Requirements: Degree in ICT, Information Systems, Education Technology or a related field. At least 2 years' experience in LMS or system administration. Practical experience with user permissions, enrolment, content publishing and first-line platform support.

Appointments are subject to assessment, verification of qualifications and experience, and applicable work authorisation.

How To Apply

Send your CV, qualification details and a short statement of relevant experience. Use the job title as the email subject; state your availability. Include non-confidential work samples where relevant (technical/design roles: work samples or portfolio).

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Training & Stakeholders

Training Operations Manager

Coordinate educator training and training-of-trainers delivery. Plan trainer preparation, venues, materials and schedules around equipment and platform availability. Assess competence, monitor training quality and follow up classroom application, adapting support to differing digital skills.

Requirements: Degree in Education, Training, Human Resources or a related field. At least 5 years' experience in training coordination or education programme management. Experience managing trainers or delivery teams, training-needs analysis, training-of-trainers, assessment design and multi-site follow-up support.

Communications and Stakeholder Relations Officer

Coordinate Ministry liaison, stakeholder engagement and programme updates. Maintain engagement plans, briefing materials, enquiry records and follow-up commitments. Explain school readiness, delivery schedules and support channels; secure factual approval and communicate service changes clearly.

Requirements: Degree in Communications, Public Relations, Journalism or a related field. At least 4 years' relevant experience, with strong writing and stakeholder engagement skills. Evidence of institutional liaison, issue handling and coordination across stakeholders; ability to track concerns through to agreed responses.

Marketing and Advocacy Officer

Develop audience-specific campaigns and outreach schedules for schools, educators, parents and communities. Promote STEAM education, maintain consistent branding and track enquiries, participation and campaign feedback. Ensure appropriate permissions for published images and stories.

Requirements: Degree or diploma in Marketing, Communications, Media or a related field. At least 3 years' experience in marketing, advocacy or campaigns. Examples of campaigns or outreach materials and evidence of their reach or response.

Learning & Curriculum

Coding and Robotics Lead

Lead curriculum delivery, training and technical support. Demonstrate age-appropriate coding and kit assembly, programming and troubleshooting. Coordinate readiness checks, lesson guidance and competitions.

Requirements: Degree or diploma in Computer Science, Robotics, Engineering, Education or a related field. At least 4 years' experience in coding, robotics or technology education. Practical coding or robotics teaching examples, including educator support and kit troubleshooting.

ECD STEAM Lead

Lead early-years STEAM delivery and educator mentoring. Monitor learning quality and support needs; coordinate age-appropriate teaching improvements with curriculum and field teams.

Requirements: Degree in Early Childhood Education, Education or a related field. At least 5 years' experience in ECD teaching, training or programme delivery.

Curriculum Lead

Map outcomes to lessons, digital resources and assessments. Support BSDLE and virtual laboratories; pilot resources with educators, document gaps, control revisions and provide classroom guidance.

Requirements: Degree in Education, Curriculum Studies, Instructional Design or a relevant subject area. At least 5 years of curriculum or learning design experience, including coordination of content development or curriculum implementation. Evidence of curriculum mapping, lesson or resource development, content review and collaboration with educators. Ability to work with Botswana curriculum specialists.

ICT and Mathematics Lead

Develop digital mathematics and virtual laboratory activities linked to curriculum outcomes and assessment. Coach educators to address misconceptions and adapt resources to devices and connectivity.

Requirements: Degree in ICT, Mathematics, Education or a related field. At least 5 years' experience in teaching, training or education programme delivery. Evidence of applying digital tools to mathematics teaching and supporting educators in their classroom use.

Quality & Field Operations

QA, WSE and M&E Officer

Conduct school quality reviews, verify evidence and track performance. Record findings and support needs; follow up improvement actions with programme and field teams.

Requirements: Degree or diploma in Education, Monitoring and Evaluation, Social Sciences or a related field. At least 3 years' experience in quality assurance or field monitoring.

Field Operations Lead / District Coordinator

Coordinate district teams, deployment and school coverage. Schedule visits around staffing, equipment, training and site readiness; maintain issue registers, resolve challenges and escalate exceptions.

Requirements: Degree or diploma in Education, Project Management, Community Development or a related field. At least 5 years' experience in field operations or programme coordination. Experience coordinating local teams, school visits and operational follow-up across multiple sites.

School Support Officer / Assistant District Coordinator

Conduct school visits and support educators. Maintain visit and action records; escalate equipment, access and delivery problems. Check training attendance, resources and readiness.

Requirements: Diploma or degree in Education, Community Development, Administration or a related field. At least 2 years' experience in field work, school support or projects. Clear field reporting, reliable follow-up and the ability to support educators with routine programme activities.

ECD Partner / Kinder Programme Officer

Coordinate ECD partner schedules, plans and delivery evidence. Monitor subcontractors and follow up age-appropriate resources, educator support and corrective actions.

Requirements: Diploma or degree in Early Childhood Education, Education or a related field. At least 3 years' experience in ECD or partner coordination. Experience maintaining partner activity records and following up on ECD delivery commitments.

Appointments are subject to assessment, verification of qualifications and experience, and applicable work authorisation.

How To Apply

Send your CV, qualification details and a short statement of relevant experience. Use the job title as the email subject; state your availability. Include non-confidential work samples where relevant (technical/design roles: work samples or portfolio).

SEND APPLICATIONS TO

mojaki@emeritusacademy.co.za

ENQUIRIES

Mr. Nelson Mathabathe

nelson@emeritusacademy.co.za

CLOSING DATE

09 October 2026

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Editorial

Comment

After The Feast, Show Us The Benefits

Botswana's wildlife debate will remain hollow for as long as the people who bear the costs are reduced to spectators.

The dispute over elephant hunts for the Diamond Jubilee has exposed a familiar divide. Government speaks of community benefits, critics warn of harm to conservation, and political leaders exchange barbs. Behind the argument are families whose crops, property and safety are threatened by wildlife.

Their experience must carry weight. Expecting rural communities to protect animals that destroy their livelihoods without dependable compensation or a fair share of revenue is an unreasonable demand.

Meat distributed during a celebration, however, cannot settle the question of whether conservation is improving those communities' lives.

Government must show its working. It should publish the number of animals killed, where the hunts took place, how the animals were selected and which communities benefited. Hunting licences issued must be distinguished from confirmed kills.

The same openness must apply to money. When hunting revenue is presented as proof that communities benefit, the public deserves to know how much reaches local projects and households, who controls it and how expenditure is checked. Figures announced nationally mean little to a family still waiting for help after losing a harvest.

Distribution also matters. Elderly residents, pregnant women and people with disabilities should receive their fair share through an organised system. Access to a carcass should never depend on strength, speed or personal connections.

Botswana has every right to determine its conservation policy. International critics should engage with the realities of living alongside elephants and acknowledge the costs borne by local people. Their distance from those costs does not make their concerns worthless, just as national sovereignty does not make every government decision sound.

Local objections deserve particular respect. A resident who questions the killing of an elephant is exercising the same democratic right as one who supports regulated hunting. Neither should be dismissed because their position inconveniences a minister or former president.

At sixty, Botswana should have the confidence to replace political insults with evidence and public accountability. Conservation needs healthy wildlife populations, credible science, functioning institutions and communities that see a practical reason to support it.

The test is what happens after the celebrations: safer settlements, timely compensation, transparent revenue and genuine consultation.

A country's natural wealth must bring lasting public value. Government should demonstrate that value, and invite the people living with wildlife to judge the results for themselves.

WHY WALK OUT WHEN WE SHOULD TALK?



Moiserale Master Goya

Former Assistant Minister and Member of Parliament for Palapye

I am really concerned about what I am seeing these days. Walkouts from Parliaments, walkouts from African Union meetings, walkouts from the United Nations.

I thought these places were created to discuss issues affecting people's lives. Now if you walk out instead of listening to what others are saying, does it make sense?

In my time in Parliament, we had fierce debates. BDP and opposition would attack each other with words. But we never walked out on Botswana. We stayed, we listened, even when we disagreed. That is the essence of democracy (Mmualebe o bua la gagwe gore monalente a tswe la gagwe le ene).

The same should apply to the African Union and the United Nations. I really don't know why Chairpersons of these meetings don't order Security guards to lock the doors to deter these people from walking out. These bodies were formed after terrible wars so that leaders can talk instead of sending young people to die.

Winston Churchill, who saw two world wars, said "Jaw-jaw is better than war-war." He was right. Talking is always better than killing.

I ask myself: why should we kill each other? Every human being has a time that God has allotted for them to depart from this world. Who are we to shorten someone's life because of politics, religion, land or power? The Bible says "Thou shalt not kill." Our Setswana culture also says "Motho ke motho ka batho."

If we disagree on Gaza, on Ukraine, on Sudan, on our own politics here at home, the answer is more talk, not less. Walkouts may look strong on TV, but they are a sign of weakness. They say I have no argument, so I will leave.

As Batswana, I would not like to one day hear or watch on TV our President walking out of any of the International bodies meetings. He is my Boy and I know that he will not embarrass us. We are a small country, but we are respected because we listen. Our former Presidents — Khama, Masire, Mogae — were listened to at the UN not because we have big armies, but because we had big morals.

My plea to leaders young and old is this: Stay in the room. Listen even to your enemy. Let jaw-jaw win over war-war. Because when the guns start, it is not the leaders who die. It is the children of poor people.

Let us not walk out on peace. How I wish my message could reach leaders of the African Union, United Nations and leaders of Russia, USA, China, UK.

Series 2: Risk Allocation in Independent Power Production and Botswana's Energy Affordability Challenge

Botswana's evolving electricity sector is creating opportunities for private investment, especially through Independent Power Producers (IPPs). This transition offers possibilities to enhance energy security, accelerate renewable energy growth and promote economic diversification. However, the success of the IPP model ought not to be assessed solely by how much new generation capacity is built or how much private capital is mobilised. An important question emerging is who in the end carries the risks and costs of generating that electricity, and what does this mean in terms of energy affordability?

This places risk allocation and procurement costs at the centre of the energy-affordability discussion. Risk allocation may be described as the process of recognizing potential risks in a project and assigning the management and financial responsibility for each risk to the party most capable of handling it at the lowest cost. In energy and infrastructure projects, risks are usually shared among governments, private developers, financiers, and consumers to reduce the overall cost and impact of unexpected events. The two main risk takers in IPP



**Dr. Cheludo
Tinaye Butale**

projects are generally the offtaker (often a state-owned utility) and the developers (the project investors). Lenders, insurers, and other financing providers also take an active part in the risk allocation process, since they are indirectly exposed to all key project risks through their financing commitments.

The common energy related risks include regulatory risks, currency/foreign exchange risks, financial risks and operational risks. Other risks are associated with construction delays or cost overruns and procurement related risks such as inadequate competition, weak procurement processes, lack of transparency, poorly designed tender requirements and unrealistic cost assumption. Risk assessment, pricing, and allocation are important

for every successful power project financing. A comprehensive risk assessment needs to consider the power sector value chain, because risks can arise at any point from fuel supply to end-user billing. Risk allocation is thus not merely a contractual or financial concern. It may have implications on the final cost of electricity.

The Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) is tasked with balancing the interests of consumers, customers and licensees, and with ensuring that tariffs are set using a transparent methodology, which includes taking account of government policy on cross-subsidisation. BERA also examines Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and grants regulatory approval for them. The country is shifting towards tariffs that better reflect costs. At the same time, government acknowledged the need for effective procurement and facilitation of IPP projects as private involvement in generation expands.

However, a tariff may be labelled cost-reflective without actually establishing whether various categories of households can manage the electricity bills. In the same way, an IPP can be procured competitively without showing how the procurement price impacts low-income

consumers. Botswana treats affordability as a key element of its energy policy. However, affordability extends beyond the nominal electricity tariff. A household may be connected to electricity and still be unable to afford sufficient consumption.

The National Energy Policy (2021) identifies affordability as a key dimension of energy access. However, the energy policy has not adequately conceptualised and operationalised the notions of energy affordability and energy poverty into a single, measurable national framework. The recently introduced National Energy Compact also tackles energy affordability and energy poverty through broad targets, such as reaching 100% universal electricity access by 2030 and scaling up clean cooking solutions. However, attaining universal access does not automatically settle the question of affordability. This distinction matters as Botswana expands electricity generation through IPPs and strives to balance energy security, investment and consumer welfare.

The aim should not be to transfer all risks onto private investors or to stop investors from

You Built the Brand. But Do You Own It?



Dr Keotshepile Motseonageng

THE BUSINESS OF INFLUENCE

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
LAW

You have used the name for ten years. It is on your packaging, outside your shop, across your social media pages and known by your customers. You have spent thousands of pula advertising it.

Then one morning, you discover another business using the same or a confusingly similar name.

Your immediate reaction is: “But that is my brand.”

My question is: What exactly do you own, and can you prove it?

This is a conversation Botswana entrepreneurs need to have. Building

a successful brand and developing an intellectual property strategy around that brand are not the same thing. A business may become well known while some of its most valuable intangible assets remain inadequately protected.

A brand is bigger than a logo. It may include a business name, trademark, slogan, packaging, distinctive designs, photographs, written content, domain names and other creative assets. Different elements attract different forms of legal protection, and ownership should never simply be assumed.

For example, registering a company or business name does not necessarily provide the same legal protection as registering a trademark. A trademark serves a particular function: it identifies the commercial source of goods or services and can give its owner enforceable rights within the scope of registration.

Entrepreneurs should therefore stop treating intellectual property as

something to consider only after a dispute arises.

I regularly see businesses invest in beautiful logos, expensive packaging, signage, websites and social media campaigns before asking one fundamental question: Who owns the intellectual property?

Even commissioning a designer does not mean every intellectual property right automatically belongs to the person who paid for the work in every circumstance. The applicable law and contractual terms matter. This is why written agreements addressing ownership, permitted use, assignment and licensing are important.

The same thinking should extend to collaborations. When two people develop a product together, who owns the name? Who owns the design? If the relationship ends, who may continue using the intellectual property?

These questions are easier and usually cheaper to answer before success arrives. Botswana must

move from a culture of creating first and protecting later to one where intellectual property strategy forms part of building a business from the beginning.

Protection, however, is only half the conversation.

An intellectual property asset can potentially be licensed, franchised, assigned or otherwise commercially exploited. That means the logo you regard merely as artwork, or the name you regard simply as your business identity, may form part of the commercial value of your enterprise.

This is why my dream is to help build Botswana’s intellectual property culture, a culture where entrepreneurs understand that ideas can become assets and that ownership, protection and commercialisation belong in the same business conversation.

So before you tell the world, “I built this brand,” ask yourself the more important question:

“Do I know what I own?”

Series 2: Risk Allocation in Independent Power Production and Botswana’s Energy

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earning commercially viable returns. The policy challenge, therefore, is not only to guarantee proportionate and transparent risk allocation, but also

to establish a clear conceptualisation and operationalisation of energy affordability and energy poverty.

IPPs can make a meaningful contribution to Africa’s electricity challenges, however

it is important to have transparent frameworks that encourage private sector participation, align with national planning processes, and deliver measurable social benefits. The growing IPP market offers Botswana

an opportunity to create an affordability framework that links procurement, risk allocation, financing, tariffs, and consumer welfare.

DANGERS OF CORRUPTION WITHIN THE STATE SECURITY SECTOR

Many post-colonial African states have been impacted by rampant acts of corruption which have further eroded stability. Corruption, which Transparency International defines as the “abuse of entrusted power for private gain”, includes an element of subversion or illegitimate use of resources meant for a particular purpose to further another goal. When applied to the public sector, it entails expectations and norms being flouted due to misuse of a public system for a private benefit, rather than public good. If repeated regularly, it leads to the degradation of a system meant to benefit the public into one that benefits certain groups to the detriment of others. Corrupt practices include bribery, nepotism and favouritism in hiring and promotions, embezzlement of state funds, extortion and sextortion.

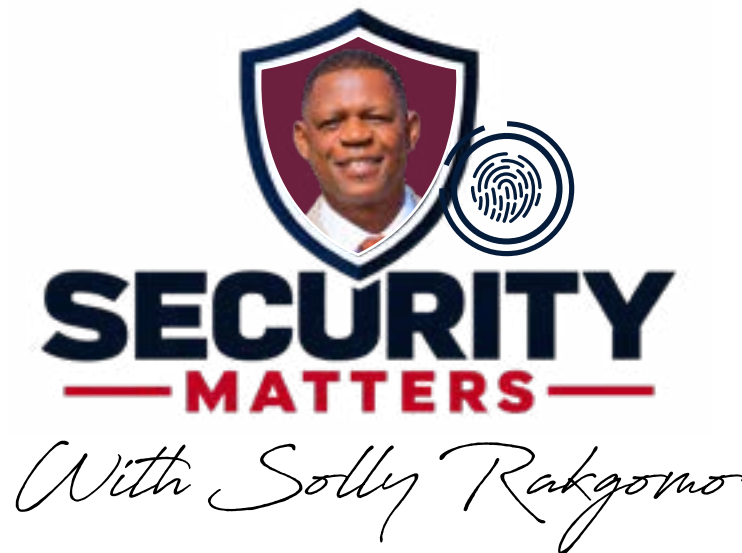
It is within the state security sector where acts of corruption do more harm to human populations in affected countries than other acts of criminality. The state security sector includes the police, the army, intelligence agencies, customs and immigration agencies, revenue and anti-corruption bodies. It comprises institutions and other entities with a role in ensuring the security of the state and its people.

However, it is very common in many African states to find members of the state security sector involved in acts of corruption. This has seriously created a trust deficit between citizens and some state security

institutions. For example, the Afrobarometer survey of 2020 shows that 47 percent of Africans interviewed stated that among key public institutions, the police are the most corrupt through acts of extortion and receiving bribes from poor citizens. Many studies have shown that state security sector corruption is rife in Africa, especially in countries with very weak institutions and under authoritarian leaders.

Foster Kaude, in his study on State Security Sector Governance in Africa, states that it is very common in some African countries for members of the army and intelligence agencies to connive with criminal syndicates and insurgents in the illegal smuggling of weapons. These agencies manipulate poor weapons stockpile management within their institutions to perpetrate such acts of criminality. Some state security agencies tasked with border security management connive with criminal syndicates to smuggle drugs and counterfeit products which are a danger to public safety.

Corruption in the security



sector has a detrimental impact both on the security apparatus itself and on wider peace and security, by fuelling tensions and adding to conflict and instability. Quantitative studies have underscored how corruption and state instability are correlated, with states dominated by narrow patronage-based systems more susceptible to instability. Six out of the 10 lowest-scoring countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index 2019 are also among the 10 least peaceful countries in the Global Peace Index of 2020.

Corruption undermines the efficiency of state security forces, damages populations' conception of the legitimacy of central authorities and feeds a sense of disillusionment, which threatens the social contract and ultimately the rule of law. It can also facilitate the expansion of non-state and extremist groups and become one of the lynchpins of recruitment narratives, which position these groups as a legitimate alternative to corrupt governments and elites.

Corrupt and malfunctioning state security agencies lower society's esteem

for state institutions. Operational effectiveness is compromised because corrupt procedures concerning placements and merit attributions greatly affect security agency morale. Corruption may also provide opportunities for terrorists and organised criminal syndicates to acquire information, know-how, dangerous materials, weapon technologies and systems. Corruption-based links of security and defence organisations to organised crime pose immediate threats to the security of the country and its citizens, compromising broader national security objectives.

State security sector corruption affects all levels of security and defence personnel and can take the form of theft, extortion, bribery and influence networks. Lack of transparency, operational urgency, lack of oversight mechanisms and absence of adequate rules and regulations can create an atmosphere prone to corrupt deviation of financial and other resources.

Whistle-blowers can play a crucial role in signalling infractions. Oversight committees, ombuds institutions and inspectors are essential in combatting this kind of corruption. Their presence alone exercises a preventive effect. Parliament, ministries, civil society, media and academia can all play an important role. International organisations and other states can provide guidance, best practices and international standards.

Africa Must Stop Importing Permission

Sometimes Africa needs to summon the courage to stop treating European approval as the final measure of African legitimacy and start building alternatives.

There is something profoundly absurd about celebrating political independence while remaining conditioned to panic whenever somebody in Brussels changes a regulation or decides that something produced on African soil no longer meets the standards of a market we have convinced ourselves is the only one worth having.

We have cattle in our kraals, wealth accumulated through generations of farming and woven deeply into our culture. Yet a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak can leave farmers owning animals they cannot readily convert into income, as movement restrictions and export requirements constrain the usual commercial channels.

And apparently the appropriate response is to accept this helplessly because Europe has spoken. How wonderfully colonial.

Europe is not the world, and the European consumer is not humanity's designated final customer. China exists. Asia exists. The Middle East, the Americas and Africa itself exist.

Billions of people outside Europe eat beef, buy diamonds and need minerals. Yet losing access to one collection of wealthy countries can still feel like the commercial equivalent of the sun disappearing.



**Tshireletso
Motlogelwa**

That is no longer merely a trade problem. It is a psychological inheritance. A

colonial mentality.

Why, after sixty years of independence, should an African economy still tremble whenever Europe says no?

We did not plant our flags on European soil, redraw its borders, suppress its languages, extract its minerals and reorganise its economies around our industries. History travelled in the opposite direction, which makes the expectation that Africans must seek European moral certification particularly rich.

Then comes the elephant.

Botswana has conserved elephants so successfully that we live with one of the largest populations on Earth. Conservation is wonderfully romantic from a European apartment or television documentary. It becomes less romantic when an elephant destroys your crops, competes for water, damages property or threatens your life.

So Botswana authorises the controlled utilisation of a tiny number of elephants, including using the meat to feed communities, and distant custodians of African

morality rediscover their megaphones.

No, no, no. You cannot eat those either. Wonderful!

Cattle in FMD-affected areas face restrictions, while buffalo and other wildlife can maintain the virus in ecosystems. Yet when we look at the wildlife resource walking across our landscape, utilising it is declared morally offensive.

Perhaps somebody should explain the approved menu.

Should Botswana sit beside cattle they cannot sell, surrounded by wildlife they are told they cannot sustainably utilise, and politely go hungry so somebody thousands of kilometres away can feel reassured about African conservation?

Perhaps we can distribute certificates saying "European Approved Hunger".

At what point does legitimate international cooperation become a mechanism through which our resources belong to us geographically, but their acceptable use must be determined elsewhere?

That is the mentality we must finally bury, for we never feel entitled to condemn European consumption of frog legs, sturgeon caviar and European eel, even where trade threatens wild populations. The double standards.

Independence cannot forever mean a flag, an anthem and a Parliament while we remain terrified of diversifying away from inherited economic arrangements.

Europe can be an important trading partner without being our economic permission

slip. If other markets offer viable opportunities, we must build the veterinary systems, processing capacity, traceability infrastructure and commercial relationships required to reach them.

The same confidence must extend to conservation.

Botswana should conserve its wildlife because Botswana values it. Conservation must work for communities carrying its costs. Where science, law and responsible management permit sustainable utilisation, Africans should not have to apologise for deriving value, including food, from resources they have successfully conserved.

We should listen to good science, respect legitimate veterinary standards, protect biodiversity and honour international obligations. None of that requires intellectual submission.

The cattle are ours, the wildlife is ours and the land is ours. The farmers carrying the losses are our parents. The communities living beside elephants are ours. When policies fail, our people absorb the consequences.

We have spent enough generations exporting our wealth while importing permission.

Other nations may remain our partners, our customers and our friends. But they do not get to remain our masters.

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Monday Chronicle.



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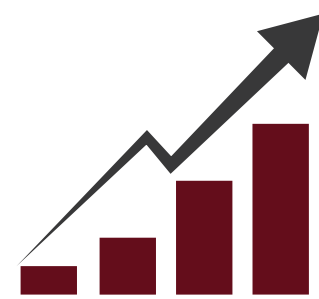


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Business



○ ECONOMY. STOCK MARKETS. BUSINESS NEWS ○

Botswana's Economy Grows 8.7% But Household Spending Falls 7.3%



Vice President and Minister of Finance Ndaba Gaolathe

TSAONE SEGAETSHO

Botswana households cut consumption by 7.3 percent in the second quarter of 2026 even as the economy expanded by 8.7 percent, highlighting a widening gap between the country's diamond-led recovery and household spending.

The latest gross domestic product (GDP) figures released by Statistics Botswana show that total final consumption expenditure contracted by 3 percent year-on-year, driven mainly by the decline in household consumption. Government consumption, by comparison, increased by 2.4 percent.

The fall in household spending provides statistical backing for trends emerging from the latest results of retail giants Choppies and Sefalana, where shoppers are buying fewer goods and reducing the size of their shopping baskets.

Botswana's overall economic expansion was driven largely by mining and quarrying, which surged by 81.7 percent as diamond mining real value added increased by 94.7 percent.

Statistics Botswana said diamond production increased following higher processing volumes at Orapa and Jwaneng mines, supported

by improved recovered grades.

Outside mining, however, the economy contracted by 0.2 percent, compared with non-mining growth of 2.8 percent in the corresponding period last year.

Wholesale and retail trade grew by 3.1 percent, compared with 4.1 percent a year earlier, while diamond trading contracted by 27.9 percent.

Choppies reported that sales volumes in its Botswana operations fell by 5.5 percent during the year ended June 2026. Botswana sales declined by 0.7 percent to P5.62 billion, while like-for-like sales fell by 1.2 percent.

The retailer attributed part of its performance to reduced consumer liquidity resulting from the diamond-market slump and constrained spending associated with government austerity measures.

At group level, retail sales increased by 7.9 percent to P9.82 billion, supported by inflation and the opening of 27 new stores. However, the group recorded no volume growth, while profit from continuing operations fell by 51 percent to P74 million.

Sefalana reported a similar change in shopping behaviour.

Its Botswana consumer goods operation increased turnover by about 5 percent during the 52 weeks ended April 2026, but like-for-like sales declined by 1 percent. The retailer said customers were visiting stores more frequently but buying smaller baskets, increasingly choosing necessities, value packs and private-label products.

Sefalana's group revenue rose by 9 percent to a record P12.13 billion, while profit before tax declined

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Botswana's Economy Grows 8.7% But Household Spending Falls 7.3%

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by 40 percent to P331 million.

Households are also facing substantially higher prices. Statistics Botswana reported annual inflation of 9.3 percent in August, compared with 1.4 percent a year earlier. Imported-tradeable inflation stood at 13 percent.

The latest national accounts show an economy recovering at different speeds. Diamond production has rebounded strongly enough to lift headline GDP, while household consumption has moved in the opposite direction.

Statistics Botswana said the strong GDP performance was primarily driven by increased production for export markets, particularly diamond mining, while domestic final demand declined.

For Choppies and Sefalana, that divide is already visible at the till: Choppies is recording falling volumes, while Sefalana's customers are shopping more often but leaving with smaller baskets.

BSE To Anchor Proposed US\$200m SADC Push Into Dangote Refinery IPO



TSAONE SEGAETSHO

The Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) is being positioned as the primary market for a regional investment instrument linked to Dangote Petroleum Refinery's initial public offering (IPO), potentially placing Botswana at the centre of a major cross-border capital-raising initiative involving Southern African investors.

The proposed arrangement is being developed by the Committee of SADC Stock Exchanges (CoSSE) and the BSE through a sponsored depositary receipt (DR) programme. The receipts would be listed and traded on the Botswana market, while participating SADC exchanges would provide access to investors in their respective countries.

Regional reports have put the target for Southern African investors at around US\$200 million. However, the BSE and CoSSE did not confirm that figure in their joint announcement or disclose how much could come from Botswana investors.

The initiative is linked to Dangote Petroleum Refinery's IPO in Nigeria, where the company is offering 4.1 billion new ordinary shares at N525 each, seeking about N2.15 trillion, or approximately US\$1.6 billion.

Nigeria's Securities and Exchange Commission approved the offer, which opened on 14 September and is scheduled to close on 13 October.

The reported US\$200 million SADC target would be equivalent to about 12.5 percent of the refinery's

US\$1.6 billion base offer. It does not mean that US\$200 million has already been committed or that the entire amount would be raised from Botswana.

Under the proposed structure, the BSE would host depositary receipts representing interests in the underlying Dangote shares, rather than directly listing the refinery's ordinary shares.

"The BSE, as the proposed host market for the regional DR, would provide the central listing and trading venue," the BSE and CoSSE said in their joint announcement.

Investors in participating SADC countries would access the instrument through domestic brokers and market infrastructure. The regional structure

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BSE To Anchor Proposed US\$200m SADC Push Into Dangote Refinery IPO

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is intended to avoid establishing separate Dangote listings across several Southern African exchanges.

The BSE and CoSSE said concentrating the instrument on one host exchange would consolidate liquidity and establish a common regional reference price, while allowing domestic exchanges and financial institutions to retain their roles in distributing the security to investors.

Zimbabwe has already moved to participate.

Financial Securities Exchange (FINSEC) has received regulatory approval in Zimbabwe to participate as a distribution exchange and order-routing platform, with the BSE identified as the primary market for the regional issuance.

The Zimbabwean arrangement illustrates how the wider SADC structure could operate: investors would access the Dangote instrument through their domestic markets, while trading would be concentrated on the Botswana exchange.

The BSE and CoSSE said the initiative forms part of a wider effort to connect Southern African capital markets.

“The initiative is being progressed in the context of CoSSE’s broader market-interconnectivity programme, which seeks to deepen linkages among SADC capital markets and make it progressively easier for investors in one member market to access securities available on another,” the organisations said.

The Dangote transaction could provide an early test of that model as CoSSE continues implementing its broader Smart Order Router infrastructure.

“CoSSE and BSE believe the initiative can demonstrate how African capital markets can collaborate to broaden investor participation in major African transactions while preserving the important role of domestic market institutions,” the organisations said.

The development follows Dangote Group President Aliko Dangote’s visit to Botswana in

September, during which he disclosed that the long-awaited refinery IPO was imminent.

Reuters reported that the US\$1.6 billion base offer could increase to about US\$2.1 billion if oversubscribed.

Dangote has since said investor interest in the offer has been strong.

“The demand has been enormous,” Dangote said during a visit to Kenya, according to Reuters, without disclosing the amount subscribed at the time.

The refinery, built at a cost of about US\$20 billion, currently has processing capacity of around 700,000 barrels per day. Dangote plans to expand capacity towards 1.4 million barrels per day, with the equity raising forming part of the financing for the expansion programme.

For Botswana, significant details of the proposed regional transaction remain undisclosed.

The BSE has not publicly stated how much of the reported US\$200 million SADC target it expects Botswana investors to

contribute, how many depositary receipts would be listed, the ratio between each receipt and the underlying Dangote shares, or the currency in which the instrument would trade.

It has also not announced when Botswana investors would be able to subscribe or when secondary-market trading in the receipts would begin.

Those details will determine the scale of Botswana’s participation in a transaction that could give the country’s relatively small stock exchange a much larger role in regional capital markets.

The listing remains a proposal.

“The proposed regional DR programme is currently being finalised with the relevant transaction parties,” the BSE and CoSSE said.

Implementation remains subject to agreements with Dangote and its advisers, completion of transaction documentation, appointment of service providers, and regulatory and market approvals in Botswana, Nigeria and participating SADC jurisdictions.

“Accordingly, this announcement should not be interpreted as an offer or invitation to subscribe for or purchase any securities,” the organisations cautioned.

The BSE and CoSSE said further announcements would be made as the arrangements progress.





TSAONE SEGAETSHO

BETP's P514bn Ambition Enters Global Race For Private Capital

Botswana's P514 billion economic transformation programme is entering a global race for private capital as the government increasingly looks to investors to finance projects it cannot fund from public resources alone.

Botswana's P514 billion economic transformation programme is entering a global race for private capital as the government increasingly looks to investors to finance projects it cannot fund from public resources alone.

The Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) has assembled 186 high-impact projects that government says could attract cumulative investment of P514 billion by 2036 and create 512,000 jobs.

About 60 percent of the projects are private-sector-led, placing private investment at the centre of the government's efforts to reduce Botswana's dependence on diamonds and develop new sources of economic growth.

That ambition comes as the World Bank Group significantly expands its efforts to attract private investment into developing

economies.

On 17 September, the World Bank Group announced that it had mobilised a record US\$112 billion in private capital during its 2026 financial year, more than three times the US\$35 billion mobilised in FY2022.

Africa attracted approximately US\$22 billion, up from about US\$9 billion four years earlier — an increase of nearly 150 percent.

The figures point to growing private-capital mobilisation for developing economies at a time when Botswana is seeking investors for its transformation programme.

However, no Botswana allocation from the US\$112 billion has been announced. The figure represents capital mobilised, rather than a World Bank funding facility from which countries can simply draw money.

Private-capital mobilisation refers to investment from

private investors brought into projects alongside, or through the involvement of, World Bank Group institutions and instruments.

The group said its mobilisation drive had involved expanding guarantees and local-currency financing, addressing foreign-exchange risks, increasing equity instruments and developing mechanisms that enable institutional investors to participate in developing economies.

It issued more than US\$25 billion in guarantees during FY2026 alone, surpassing its target of US\$20 billion in annual guarantee issuance by 2030 four years ahead of schedule.

The question for Botswana is whether BETP projects can become sufficiently bankable to compete for international private capital.

Government has already acknowledged the scale of the financing challenge.

When showcasing BETP projects in November 2025, Vice President and Minister of Finance Ndaba Nkosinathi Gaolathe said the 186 projects represented an investment pipeline of P514 billion over a decade. He stressed that a transformation programme of that magnitude could not be financed by government alone.

The International Monetary Fund has similarly said most BETP projects are expected to be financed primarily by the private sector, while some could be implemented through public-private partnerships (PPPs).

But the IMF has cautioned that BETP's success will depend on wider reforms to improve Botswana's business environment. It identified access to finance, labour-market reforms, trade competitiveness,

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Shell Network Hits 85 With Mmopane Opening

CHRONICLE REPORTER

Vivo Energy Botswana has opened the Shell Mmopane service station, taking its national Shell retail network to 85 stations as it expands its presence in the Kweneng region.

The station offers Shell fuels and lubricants, a Pick n Pay Go convenience store and a Pick n Pay Liquor outlet.

In a statement dated 25 September, the company said the development addressed a longstanding gap in its network and responded to increasing residential, commercial and commuter activity in the area.

Vivo Energy Botswana Managing Director Sesupo Wagamang said Mmopane's growth had influenced the investment decision.

"Our network expansion is about more than increasing the number of stations we operate. It's about making deliberate investments and establishing a presence

where Botswana is growing. Mmopane is an important and rapidly developing area, and this investment allows us to bring Shell closer to customers while strengthening our ability to serve this community," he said.

Wagamang said changing customer expectations were also shaping the company's service stations, with customers increasingly seeking shopping and other services alongside fuel.

"We have always maintained that customers are looking for more than a place to refuel. They want quality, reliability and convenience, and they want to be able to meet more of their everyday needs in one journey. Our partnership with Pick n Pay allows us to broaden the proposition at Shell Mmopane and create a destination that responds to how our customers live and travel today," he said.

The company said the



investment was expected to create employment, support skills development and generate additional economic activity for businesses and service providers in and around Mmopane.

The announcement did not disclose the cost of the development or the number of jobs expected.

"Responsible growth means making investments that deliver value to the business while also contributing to the communities that we serve. With Shell Mmopane, we are creating employment, supporting skills development, improving access to services and

strengthening convenience for customers. That is the kind of growth we want to continue pursuing across Botswana," Wagamang said.

Vivo Energy Botswana said it would continue strengthening its retail network, improving customer experience and identifying expansion opportunities in communities where population and economic activity are growing.

According to the company, the wider Vivo Energy Group has more than 4,200 service stations in 29 markets, operating under the Shell and Engen brands.



BETP's P514bn Ambition Enters Global Race For Private Capital

From Page 21

governance, regulation and land registration among the areas requiring attention.

The IMF has also called for Botswana's PPP framework to be strengthened to manage the fiscal risks associated with such arrangements.

Those concerns matter because private financing does not necessarily remove the government's financial exposure.

A project may be financed principally at the investor's risk, while other arrangements could involve government guarantees, PPP commitments or other contingent liabilities. Each project's financing structure will determine how much risk rests with private investors and how much could remain with the state.

Progress in preparing the projects has been mixed.

In its September BETP update, the Ministry of Finance said the programme had moved from strategy towards implementation. However, Permanent Secretary Dr Tshokologo Kganetsano acknowledged that the 186 projects could not all be implemented simultaneously.

The BETP Secretariat said it had resolved land bottlenecks affecting some projects, including facilitating the issuance of titles for 82 land parcels in a Special Economic Zone. Some tourism and education projects had progressed to the environmental impact assessment stage.

Government also said the projects had been presented to potential investors through the BETP portal, in collaboration with the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre, and that the portal had attracted investor



President Boko and his Vice, Ndaba Gaolathe

interest.

Less clear publicly is how much of the P514 billion pipeline has progressed from investor interest to firm financing commitments, and how many projects have reached financial close.

The financing question has become more pressing as weakness in the diamond sector puts Botswana's traditional public-finance model under pressure.

The African Development Bank said in August that Botswana's development ambitions under Vision 2036, NDP 12 and BETP would require investment beyond what traditional public finances could provide. It referred to 116 private BETP projects with an estimated investment pipeline of P510 billion over the next decade.

That places BETP within the private-sector-led development model international financial

institutions are increasingly promoting.

The World Bank Group has previously identified energy, water and sanitation, and tourism as sectors where greater private-sector participation could support Botswana's diversification. Its Botswana private-sector diagnostic also identified regulatory gaps, access to finance, skills and infrastructure as constraints on private investment.

There is considerable overlap between BETP and the sectors targeted by the World Bank's private-capital strategy.

The World Bank says its job-creation strategy focuses on infrastructure and energy, agribusiness, healthcare, tourism and value-added manufacturing. Fifty-five percent of its own financing and capital mobilised in FY2026 went into these sectors.

BETP similarly covers agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, financial services and digitalisation, energy and mining, and infrastructure.

This alignment places Botswana's project pipeline within sectors being targeted by one of the world's largest development-finance institutions. It does not, however, mean BETP has secured access to World Bank-mobilised capital.

World Bank Group President Ajay Banga said the US\$112 billion mobilisation record would ultimately be measured by whether the money reached economies where it could create opportunities and employment.

"The number only matters if the capital goes where it can create opportunity and jobs," Banga said when announcing the results.

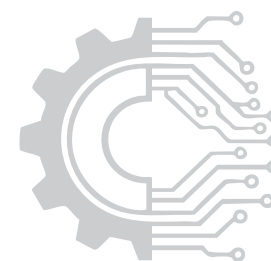
For Botswana, the P514 billion figure establishes the scale of BETP's investment ambition. Its financing prospects will depend on how much of that pipeline moves from identified projects and investor interest to bankable transactions capable of attracting domestic and international capital.

The Monday Chronicle sought responses from the Ministry of Finance and the World Bank Group on whether BETP projects were being considered for the group's private-capital mobilisation instruments, how much of the P514 billion pipeline had secured financing and whether any projects were already under discussion with World Bank Group institutions.

Neither had responded by the time of publication.



THE MONDAY Chronicle Review



Ideas, Stories & Voices worth Reading

Picking Up The Broken Pieces



Picking Up The Broken Pieces is a recently published book by first-time author Masego Bogman-Lewaneka. Published locally by Poeticblood Publishers, the 232-page memoir explores faith, resilience and the courage to rebuild when life's plans fall apart.

The book offers a reminder that when all seems lost, it is possible to reflect, find purpose and keep moving forward.

"When my marriage ended, the blueprint I had for my life was torn to shreds. As a single mother, the weight of my two sons' futures rested entirely on my shoulders. There were nights when my salary felt too small, the entrepreneurship ventures

too risky, and the energy required to project-manage my own build completely depleted. Yet, every brick laid was a step away from disaster and a step closer to destiny," Lewaneka said in an interview with The Monday Chronicle.

The memoir explores how to find the courage to begin anew when circumstances challenge one's faith and self-worth. Lewaneka shares the realities of raising her two sons after her marriage ended, refusing to let pain define her and instead finding ways to turn it into purpose.

"The year 2019 marked my turning point. I choose to pour into myself by pursuing a degree in Human Resource Management. Balancing

Book Title: Picking Up The Broken Pieces

Author: Masego Bogman-Lewaneka

Number Of Pages: 232

Publisher: Poeticblood Publishers

Genre: Memoir

Themes: Resilience and faith

late-night studying with early-morning site visits and motherhood was taxing. When I walked across the graduation stage in 2022, degree in hand, I knew the victory wasn't mine alone. It belonged to my boys, and above all, it belonged to God. He took the broken pieces of my heart and used them as the underpinning for an estate, a career, and a future brighter than I ever dreamed," she said.

Lewaneka dedicates Picking Up The Broken Pieces to God Almighty, whom she describes as her anchor, provider and the ultimate architect of her restoration.

"To My Two Sons: you are my greatest motivation. Thank you for your patience during long study nights and endless site visits. This empire is for you," she writes in the acknowledgements.

She also acknowledges her siblings, family, friends and employer.

"To My Construction Crew and Business Partners: thank you for trusting my vision as a project manager and helping me bring my house to life. To My Lecturers and Classmates (Class of 2022): thank you for the academic support that pushed me to finish my HRM degree strong," she writes.

Overcoming adversity, single motherhood, resilience and rebuilding are woven throughout the memoir.

Together, these themes make it a reflective read to enjoy over a cup of coffee with soft music in the background.

Lewaneka spends her time growing businesses, mentoring women recovering from divorce, coaching other FBO distributors and supporting charitable women's groups and networks.

"I transitioned from a broken marriage to becoming the project manager of my own houses/ estates. In 2019, I choose to return to school despite already being a busy mother and a professional. Faith plays a central role in my triumph," she said.

Based in Gaborone, Lewaneka is an administrator at a state-owned enterprise, a human capital professional, motivational speaker, network marketer, life coach, independent FBO products distributor and entrepreneur.

She is passionate about fashion and real estate, and describes herself as a loving, vibrant woman devoted to her family, friends and community.

A proud single mother of two sons, she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Human Resource Management and a Diploma in Business Administration. Her other qualifications cover public relations and customer care, project management essentials and Microsoft Project skills.

Picking Up The Broken Pieces will be officially launched on 28 November 2026 at Aquarian Tide Hotel in Gaborone.

For copies of the book, launch tickets, or sponsorship and partnership opportunities, contact +267 77 823 455.



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Come Rain Or Shine: Rain Fails To Dampen Castle Lite Unlocks



Come Rain Or Shine: Rain Fails To Dampen Castle Lite Unlocks

GOITSEMODIMO KAELO

The chilly weather and drizzle that descended on Gaborone could easily have given revellers a reason to reconsider their plans.

But for the crowd that turned up for the Castle Lite Unlocks Let's Pacers festival on 30 September, neither the cold nor the rain was enough to dampen the mood.

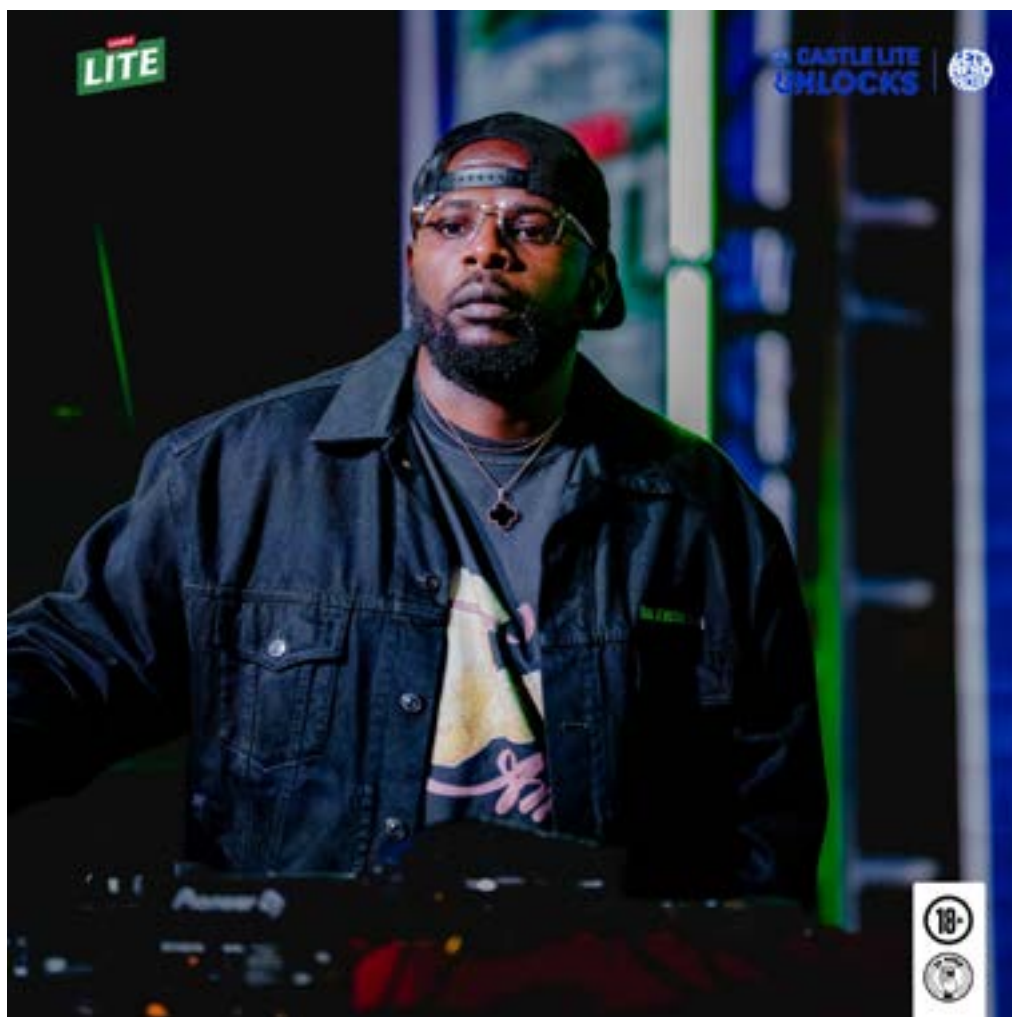
Held as Botswana's 60th Independence celebrations took centre stage, the festival brought together an impressive mix of continental stars and home-grown talent, delivering a night of music, dancing and unrelenting energy.

The festival attracted a sizeable crowd, with music lovers braving the elements to witness performances from some of the biggest names on the African entertainment scene.

Among the continental acts were Nigerian rapper Ice Prince, South African DJ and producer Oscar Mbo, Runtown, Ciza, Caiiro, Sun-El Musician and DJ Maphorisa. Botswana was represented by a strong line-up that included Ditiro, Culture Spears, Ban-T, Robotic OFC, Tefo Fox and Ricky Lenyora.

For many in attendance, the festival was less about the weather and more about the experience.

Even when the rain began falling during the night, the crowd refused to retreat. Revellers stood their



DJ Maphorisa

ground, some shielding themselves from the drizzle while others simply embraced it, patiently waiting for their favourite

artists to take to the stage.

When Ice Prince finally appeared, the response from the crowd was immediate. The Nigerian

rapper treated fans to some of his popular hits, giving those who had endured the cold and rain exactly what they had come for.

DJ Maphorisa, who was not initially on the event's line-up, performed like a man with a point to prove. His set seemed to remind the organisers that he belonged among the headliners. He brought an amapiano groove to the party, leaving revellers singing along to the songs on his playlist.

His performance added another layer of excitement to an already charged atmosphere, with fans dancing as the night gathered momentum.

The local acts also played their part in keeping the Botswana flag flying high. Their performances provided a distinctly local flavour to a festival that blended Botswana's growing entertainment scene with established continental sounds.

With a line-up spanning hip-hop, amapiano, Afrobeats and electronic music, the festival catered for different musical tastes.

Ultimately, Castle Lite Unlocks Let's Pacers proved that a little cold and rain could not stand between Botswana's music lovers and a good party.

As the Independence celebrations continued, the festival provided another reason for people to come together, celebrate and, for one night, let the music do the talking.

Sounds Of A Nation At 60

CHRONICLE REPORTER

Sixty years after the Union Jack came down, Main Mall was filled with the sound of a country celebrating itself.

From early morning, Botswana's blue, black and white were everywhere as crowds filled the streets to mark 60 years of independence.

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations on 30 September moved away from the traditional stadium setting and into the heart of Gaborone. Traditional dancers, contemporary performers, uniformed services, lifestyle groups, traders, families and visitors turned Main Mall into a celebration of Botswana's history and culture.

President Duma Boko joined the festivities, stepping onto the dance floor with the Mafitlhakgosi Traditional Dance Group. Mozambican President Daniel Chapo also joined the dancers, drawing cheers from the crowd.



PICS:BWgovernment

Tebogo Matebesi, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Sports and Arts, had earlier explained why creatives were being placed at the centre of the celebrations.

"If you want to see a people's culture, you generally see it through the creatives,"

Then the music began. As darkness settled over Gaborone, the crowd grew around the stage.

The evening programme brought together Ndingo Johwa, Alfredo Moss, Dr Lame Pusetso, Thapelo Malani, Soul Redeemers, Solly Sebotso, Lister Boleseng, Bonny the Classic Man, Kast, Women of Jazz, Ozi F Teddy, EY Brizzy and other artists, carrying the celebrations into the night.

Young artists such as Ozi F Teddy and EY Brizzy appeared alongside performers whose careers have spanned generations, giving the evening a mix of voices and sounds from

across Botswana's music scene.

For President Boko, independence was also an opportunity to look ahead. In his Independence Day message, he spoke about the work needed to build Botswana's economy, with the creative industries among the sectors he highlighted.

"We must build that economy through modern agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, energy, digital enterprise and the creative industries," he said.



Bakwena Celebrate Independence In Style

Bakwena joined the nation in celebrating Botswana's 60th independence anniversary at the Molepolole main kgotla, with national colours, entertainment and messages of pride marking the occasion.

BOTLHE MHALADI

Among the dignitaries were Bakwena Paramount Chief Kgosi Kgari Sechele III, his assistant Kgosi Lawrence Mhaladi, District Commissioner Segomotso Nkwane, council chairman Ontefetse Rankhibidu and MPs Shima Monageng and Arafat Khan.

In his welcome remarks, Kgosi Kgari described the anniversary as a milestone, celebrating six decades of peace and democracy.

"We need to applaud our leaders for bringing us this far in their efforts of continuing to make Botswana a democratic nation,"

Despite the low turnout, Kgosi Kgari commended those who had taken the time to attend the celebrations and urged everyone to enjoy the occasion responsibly. He suggested that warnings of very cold weather from the Department of Meteorological Services had contributed to the small crowd.

"Regardless of how the weather is and where we celebrate, let us do it with extreme caution," he said.

The national celebrations were held under the theme "Building Resilience, Driving Prosperity", with Batswana gathering in their respective wards to



Bakwena Paramount Chief Kgosi Kgari Sechele III,



mark the anniversary.

Delivering a message from President Duma Boko, Nkwane said the occasion was a time to celebrate the country's achievements and reflect on how far it had come.

She urged Batswana to take pride in their achievements, walk with their heads held high and accept responsibility for building the country's future. She also paid tribute to the contributions of Dikgosi, farmers, public servants, journalists, security personnel and ordinary citizens.

"To build a nation is our responsibility and we should take charge, we should be proud of what

the nation has achieved thus far like being world champions in athletics, being one of the countries that not only produce the best beef but also the biggest diamonds, this is something to write home about," Nkwane said.

She also acknowledged challenges facing the country, including high unemployment, limited start-up capital, uncertainty in the diamond market and the recent foot-and-mouth disease outbreak.

"It is within us to bring forth ideas on how we can tackle these issues as they affect us as Batswana and we need to come up with ways to curb them for a

better Botswana," she said.

She encouraged diversification into tourism and the performing arts to create employment.

"We should also try to benchmark on other countries whose artists are really making a lot of money from their craft so that we can have that as well for our local creative," she said.

In his vote of thanks, Molepolole South MP Shima Monageng paid tribute to the three Dikgosi, linking their contribution to the country's journey towards independence.

He said despite the economic downturn, funds had been allocated to every constituency in Botswana for Independence celebrations, with part of the money set aside to pay performing artists.

Monageng urged artists, particularly young people, to work hard to build their names and create opportunities for themselves.

"If you do well in your craft, you are likely to get booked and make a living from that, so that releases pressure from the government in trying to create employment for the youth," he said.

Entertainment at the kgotla included a dance performance by Regent Hill School Molepolole, a traditional poem by Leungo Baleseng and music from the Dikopane choir, which added a festive feel to the occasion.

The celebrations continued beyond the main kgotla. Molepolole North MP Arafat Khan, through the Arafat Khan Foundation, organised a festival at the Molepolole Sports Complex.

Its line-up included Chokoma, Dr Vom, Franco and Molepolole-based artists such as PLK Hipi.

Nawa Continues Rise In US College Tennis



LEFT ◀

Young tennis sensation
Mark Nawa

BOIKANYO MATHONSI

Mark Nawa's latest run in American college tennis ended in the semi-finals, but his recent results reflect the progress the Botswana player says he has made since arriving in the United States.

Nawa and North Carolina Central University (NCCU) teammate Sergio Lopez Guillen reached the last four of the men's doubles at the 2026 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Fall Tennis Invitational in Cary, North Carolina.

The pair opened their campaign with a 7-5, 6-4 victory over Coppin State's Andre Dogbefu and Mpho Leshoele before facing Norfolk State's Marcin Andrzejczak and Szymon Malecki in the semi-finals.

Nawa and Lopez Guillen took the opening set 6-4, but their opponents won the second by the same score before clinching the

deciding super tie-break 10-4.

The 20-year-old from Gaborone is now in his junior year at NCCU, where he competes in both singles and doubles. The university lists him on its 2026/27 men's tennis roster.

His recent doubles results include a 6-4 victory alongside Lopez Guillen over Southern Mississippi at the Spartan Fall Invitational in September.

That was followed by the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) National Tennis Championships, where Nawa recorded a victory in the consolation rounds as NCCU finished third overall.

Earlier this year, Nawa compared his second season in the United States with his first, when his record had fallen short of his expectations.

"My record was not so great by this time of the year because I lost more matches than I would have won but I am happy I have managed to improve,"

He said the improved results reflected a change in his game following a difficult adjustment to college tennis.

Nawa arrived in the United States after building his junior career in Botswana, including winning an ITF J30 title in Gaborone in 2024. He has since had to adapt to the demands of American university tennis.

His development has also continued outside the college circuit. In May, Nawa partnered Ntungamili Raguin at the World Tennis Tour

Gaborone tournament. The pair won their opening doubles match 6-4, 6-2 before losing in the quarter-finals.



Ratshukudu delivers double impact for Zebras, Young Zebras



▲ Losika Ratshukudu

CHRONICLE REPORTER

Losika Ratshukudu has cemented his growing importance to Botswana football after producing influential performances for both the senior and Under-23 national teams within the space of just four days.

After providing attacking impetus off the bench in the Zebras' impressive 2-2 draw away to Tunisia in the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers last Monday (September 28), Ratshukudu switched assignments and emerged as the Young Zebras' match-winner against Seychelles.

The youngster scored

both goals as Botswana secured a 2-1 first-leg victory over Seychelles at the National Stadium on Friday (October 2), giving the Young Zebras a slender advantage heading into Tuesday's return leg.

Both goals came from dead-ball situations, highlighting Ratshukudu's composure and precision when Botswana needed him most. He opened the scoring from the penalty spot in the eighth minute before Seychelles fought their way back into the contest.

With the game locked at 1-1 in the second half and



Botswana searching for a breakthrough, Ratshukudu stepped forward once again. This time, he delivered directly from a free-kick to restore the Young Zebras' advantage and ultimately seal the victory.

His brace came only four days after he made a telling contribution at senior level against Tunisia. With Botswana trailing 2-1 in Tunis, Ratshukudu was introduced in the 54th minute as interim coach Thaloba Nthaga reshuffled his attack in search of a route back into the match.

The substitution gave the Zebras another outlet on the left flank, with Ratshukudu using his pace, ball carrying and willingness to take on defenders to help Botswana move further up the pitch. His numbers reflected the impact of his cameo. According to Flashscore data, Ratshukudu attempted one shot and completed three of his four dribbles for a 75 percent success rate.

He was also fouled four times, an indication of the problems he caused Tunisia when carrying possession. Ratshukudu completed three of his four attempted passes into the

final third, registered four progressive carries and made five ball recoveries.

It was a balanced contribution that showed he was prepared to influence the game both with and without possession as Botswana recovered to earn a valuable 2-2 draw.

Four days later, his influence was more decisive, two goals and a Young Zebras victory. His productive week has offered another glimpse of a player increasingly comfortable moving between age-group and senior international football. While his contribution against Tunisia demonstrated that he can provide an attacking spark at senior level, his match-winning display against Seychelles showed his ability to shoulder responsibility when dropping back into the Under-23 setup.

His immediate task now is to finish the job for the under 23 side as the team takes its 2-1 advantage into Tuesday's second leg against Seychelles at the National Stadium, with kick-off scheduled for 4pm and Ratshukudu will once again be one of the Young Zebras' biggest attacking threats.

Tonota FC Believe They Can Go All The Way

Nthaga believes ► his team has enough quality to compete strongly throughout the campaign

CHRONICLE REPORTER



Tonota FC coach Thaloba 'Machine' Nthaga has urged his players to believe in their ability to mount a serious challenge for the league title following their impressive start to the season.

The newcomers strengthened their position at the summit of the log with a convincing 3-1 victory over Matebele FC at the GU Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

Tonota now have eight points from four matches, a return that has raised expectations that they could emerge as one of the season's surprise packages.

For Nthaga, however, the focus remains on taking each match as it comes and building on their early success.

"For me what is important is what we do week after week. But obviously as a coach, every game that we play, we play for three points and see how far it takes us," Nthaga said after the match.

The coach believes his team has enough quality to compete strongly throughout the campaign, but cautioned that

consistency will be key to turning their promising start into a sustained title challenge.

"I think we have the quality to win a lot of games this season. We have to keep on believing,"

Tonota's impressive start follows a busy transfer window in which the club brought in several experienced and talented players.

Among the new faces is attacker Thero Setsile, who underlined his quality on Saturday with a beautifully taken goal that contributed to Tonota's comfortable victory.

Mothusi Cooper is another experienced acquisition expected to play an important role as Tonota seek to establish themselves in the top flight.

The recruitment appears to have added quality and experience to a squad growing in confidence. Their early performances have lent weight to the club's stated ambition of

winning the league and securing a place in the CAF Champions League.

While Tonota are enjoying life at the top, Matebele face a difficult start to the campaign.

Coach Kago Boikanyo admitted that his side faces a tough season after an underwhelming transfer window in which they failed to secure several preferred targets.

Matebele had been expected to sell their top-flight status at the end of last season, but the owners appear to have reconsidered during the off-season. The team now relies on young players with no Premier

League experience.

They have lost all four of their opening matches and sit 15th on the log without a point.

Boikanyo said the club's immediate objective is survival, with avoiding relegation taking precedence over any loftier ambitions.





Letsholonyane sees better days ahead after debut defeat

CHRONICLE REPORTER

Reneilwe Letsholonyane endured a losing start to life in the Mochudi Centre Chiefs dugout, but the new Magosi coach insists there is no reason to panic after Saturday night's 2-0 defeat to TAFIC at the Obed Itani Chilume Stadium.

The Francistown hosts spoiled Letsholonyane's debut through second-half goals from Martin Daka and Botsile Kebaikanye, leaving Chiefs with four points from their opening four FNB Premiership matches.

Daka broke the deadlock from the penalty spot in the 61st minute before Kebaikanye struck in the 89th minute as Chiefs committed numbers forward in search of an equaliser. The late goal effectively killed off any hopes of a Magosi

comeback.

Despite the defeat, Letsholonyane emerged from his first assignment encouraged by elements of Chiefs' performance. The former Bafana Bafana midfielder believes the scoreline did not tell the full story, pointing to two costly moments as the difference between the sides.

"There's no need to panic. I'm not worried about the sudden wave of injuries because we have capable players who can step up. We have a lot of positives that we can pick from this game besides the two mistakes where we conceded the penalty and the second goal. It's all a work in progress, we will win football games and this day will be forgotten," said Letsholonyane.

His reassurance comes at a time when Chiefs find

themselves in the bottom half of the table after an underwhelming start to the campaign.

However, Letsholonyane is under no illusion about the pressure attached to the Magosi job. He acknowledged that patience can be limited at a club of Chiefs' stature, where expectations extend far beyond simply improving performances.

For the new coach, the sole standard is challenging for silverware. "The target for a team like Centre Chiefs is to win the league and to give ourselves a chance to compete for every available trophy. I don't think there's a need for the club to give anyone a target because the target is obvious. A club like Chiefs has to compete on all fronts," he stated.

The defeat leaves

Letsholonyane with immediate work to do as he attempts to turn encouraging passages of play into results and lift Chiefs up the standings.

For TAFIC, the victory strengthened an impressive start to the season. The Francistown side climbed to fifth place and now sit just two points behind early log leaders Tonota FC while still holding a game in hand.

Head coach Zachariah Mudzadzi, providing a pitch side synopsis, stated that his team's game plan was centred on locking up Magosi's best players. He stated that although he wanted the team to stay true to its fluid passing philosophy, they had to deviate from their usual style of play in order to get a result.

THE MONDAY Chronicle Sport

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Your Monday Sports

Tennis

Nawa Continues
Rise In US College
Tennis

ON PAGE 30



Ratshukudu delivers double impact for Zebras, Young Zebras  ON PAGE 31



Letsholonyane Sees Better Days Ahead After Debut Defeat

FULL ON PAGE 32



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