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Grandmother Sues Govt For P4 Million Over Medical Care

- April 2025 judgment found government failed to meet the child's required standard of care
- Judge rejected unsupported claims of expensive treatment with little improvement
- Separate lawsuit seeks lifetime care costs and damages; state says it maintained the highest standard

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Court Found Govt Failed Child Over Specialist Care

April 2025 ruling ordered government to restore a young girl's treatment at Sidilega Private Hospital

INNOCENT SELATLHWA

Government failed to provide a young girl with the highest attainable standard of medical care after withdrawing her referral for specialist rehabilitation, the High Court found in a judgment that now forms part of her grandmother's P4 million lawsuit.

The ruling, delivered by Justice Dr Ookeditse Maphakwane at the Lobatse High Court on 15 April 2025, ordered the authorities to refer the child back to Sidilega Private Hospital for neuro-rehabilitation under Dr Ookeditse Ookeditse, at government expense.

Her grandmother, Goitsewang Monnayoo, had approached the court to secure the continuation of treatment after the child's condition deteriorated. She described herself as the child's primary guardian and custodian, with her litigation financially supported by the Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA).

The girl, who was eight when the judgment was delivered, was born with Klippel-Feil syndrome, a condition involving fusion of bones in the upper spine.



According to the grandmother's account, an operation intended to correct her spinal deformity in 2021 was followed by complications that left her unable to move her arms and legs voluntarily. The operation took place at Gaborone Private Hospital following a referral from Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital.

Government subsequently funded her referral to Sidilega for rehabilitation under consultant neurologist Dr Ookeditse. She was admitted on 13 April 2022.

The judgment records reports of progressive improvement at six weeks, 12 weeks and four months of treatment. Her rehabilitation also

addressed bladder and bowel difficulties identified during her care.

A fractured thigh bone interrupted the treatment in August 2022. The recommendation was for a break of two to three months to allow the fracture to heal, followed by an assessment before possible readmission. She was discharged on 12 August.

Monnayoo's case was that government then failed to facilitate and fund her granddaughter's return to Sidilega. Her lawyers argued that the child continued to need intensive specialist care and that her condition deteriorated without it.

Government opposed the application. It denied withdrawing specialist

care and said the child was being treated by specialists at Nyangabgwe. It also maintained that rehabilitation services were available at Nyangabgwe and Princess Marina referral hospitals.

The authorities attributed the deterioration to the underlying condition, saying the child's bones were compressing her spinal cord and that she would need further operations as she grew. They also argued that the private treatment had produced minimal improvement at a high cost.

Maphakwane was not persuaded that government had shown it could provide the

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Court Found Govt Failed Child Over Specialist Care

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particular standard of rehabilitation the child required.

The judge found that the earlier referral to private care reflected the absence of the necessary services, or the required level of specialisation, within government facilities. The authorities had not explained when those services became available or identified the specialists who could provide them.

The court also considered the child's deterioration after her treatment at Sidilega stopped.

“

The regression became pronounced after the minor child ceased neuro rehabilitation at Sidilega Private Hospital,

”

The judge found that government had "failed to provide the sought highest attainable standard of health and medical care for her condition".

Under Section 15 of the Children's Act, the court said, children were entitled to that standard of care. Where a family could not secure it because of financial constraints or other recognised difficulties, the minister had a duty to take the necessary steps.

Maphakwane found no justification for allowing the authorities to depart from the standard of care they had already arranged for the child. The court directed her return to

Sidilega and awarded Monnayoo legal costs on the ordinary scale.

That order concerned access to treatment. In the separate damages action, Monnayoo seeks P4 million over alleged negligence. Government has entered an appearance to defend that claim and denies negligent care.



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Grandmother Sues Govt For P4 Million Over Medical Care

State denies negligence as court filing alleges interrupted rehabilitation caused lasting harm to a young girl

INNOCENT SELATLHWA

A grandmother is suing government for P4 million, alleging that the withdrawal of specialist rehabilitation and delays in restoring treatment caused lasting harm to her young granddaughter.

Goitsewang Monnayoo's action names the Attorney General, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and the ministry as defendants. She seeks compensation for care and medical needs she says the child will face throughout her life.

Government is defending the action. The defendants deny negligence and maintain that they provided the highest standard of care.

"The Defendants deny the allegations that they were negligent in their provision of medical care to Plaintiff's minor child," the memorandum states.

The defence also says the child was born with a genetic condition causing bone fusion and scoliosis, and would need surgery from time to time throughout her life.

The damages action follows an earlier court battle over access to rehabilitation. On 15 April 2025, Justice Dr Ookeditse Maphakwane ordered government to refer the girl back to Sidilega Private Hospital for treatment under Dr Ookeditse at its expense.



That judgment found that the authorities had failed to provide the highest attainable standard of health and medical care required for her condition. It ordered the restoration of the referral.

In her filed declaration, Monnayoo alleges that the interruption of treatment allowed her granddaughter's condition to deteriorate to a point where, she says, the specialist no longer believed rehabilitation would restore limb function.

Monnayoo, who describes herself as the child's primary caregiver and guardian, says the Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA) is funding the litigation. She is represented by Rammika Tafa & Jallow Attorneys.

The declaration says the girl was born in 2017 with Klippel-Feil syndrome. It alleges that complications following spinal surgery at Gaborone Private Hospital in 2021 left her unable to move her arms and legs voluntarily. She had been referred there from Nyangabgwe Referral

Hospital.

Government subsequently funded rehabilitation at Sidilega, where she was admitted in April 2022. According to the declaration's account of medical reports, she made measurable progress during that treatment.

After six weeks, she could sit for long periods without support. At 12 weeks, her lower limbs were responding to training and she could move her left leg, the filing says.

A fractured thigh bone interrupted the programme in August 2022. Monnayoo says the recommended break was to allow the fracture to heal, with an assessment before the child could resume rehabilitation.

She alleges that government failed to arrange and fund the return to treatment. A further examination, funded by BONELA in August 2024, is cited as recording that the limited strength previously gained in the child's lower limbs had completely regressed.

The filing says that report recommended intensive rehabilitation involving

several disciplines to try to regain lost function.

Monnayoo also alleges a further delay after the April 2025 court order. According to the declaration, the girl was admitted to Sidilega on 21 May 2025, more than a month after the ruling, and discharged on 19 September that year.

She characterises that delay as contemptuous and argues that it added to the harm.

The declaration says Monnayoo subsequently sought help to explore treatment in India. In correspondence dated 27 October 2025, she identified a paediatric rehabilitation facility in Kerala and proposed other possible centres.

Her filing cites a response dated 18 February 2026 from the Office of the President. According to the declaration, the response said neurological rehabilitation was time-sensitive, that the best outcomes were generally achieved when treatment was given close to the injury, and that further rehabilitation would not

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Court Rejected Govt Cost Argument Over Care For Child

Court found that claims of expensive treatment with little improvement lacked documentary support

RIGHT ►
Ministry of Health
Headquarters

INNOCENT SELATLHWA



Government's argument that a child's private rehabilitation had brought little improvement at a high cost failed to persuade the High Court, which found that the authorities had not supported their expenditure claim with invoices or receipts.

The finding appears in Justice Dr Ookeditse Maphakwane's judgment of 15 April 2025 in a case brought by Goitsewang Monnayoo to secure specialist treatment for her granddaughter.

The Lobatse High Court ordered government to send the child back to Sidilega Private Hospital for neuro-rehabilitation at its expense. The judgment examined both the evidence government offered against the referral and its duties towards a child whose family could not afford the required care.

During the proceedings, government said it had paid close to P1 million

for the child's surgery and rehabilitation. It argued that the Ministry of Health had observed minimal improvement despite the high cost, and that the required rehabilitation was available at public referral hospitals.

Maphakwane found that the authorities had failed to explain why the child had not been referred back to the specialist under whose care she had improved. That failure continued even after they received a statutory notice of intention to sue.

"The claim that there was little improvement at a huge cost of millions has not been justified and supported with any documentary evidence of either an invoice or receipts for such public expenditure," the judge stated.

Government had also submitted that Nyangabgwe had general neurologists capable of attending to the child, and that a recommendation

for readmission from Dr Ookeditse was not an instruction to the ministry. It said the doctors responsible for her care would determine whether a referral was needed.

The court said the earlier referral showed that the necessary services had either been unavailable within government or lacked the required specialisation. If that had changed, the authorities needed to show when and identify the specialists able to provide the treatment.

Maphakwane noted that they had failed even to name the specialists said to be available after initially referring the child elsewhere for the required care.

The judge also drew a distinction between basic or adequate medical care and the standard expressly provided for children under the Children's Act.

"Every child has a right to the highest attainable standard of health and medical care," Section 15(1)

states, as quoted in the judgment.

Maphakwane held that this wording reflected a deliberate legislative choice to give children a distinct level of protection. Government had sought to meet that obligation when it first arranged the child's private referral.

Section 15(2), the court explained, required the minister to take the necessary steps where parents, relatives or guardians could not secure the child's enjoyment of that right because of financial constraints, disability, ill-health or another reasonable cause.

The judge found that the ministry had already undertaken that duty in this case and could not withdraw it unreasonably or without reasons.

The earlier referrals also created what the court described as a legitimate expectation for the grandmother. The treatment at Sidilega had brought hope of improved neurological function, and the authorities' decision to provide it carried an obligation to act fairly when deciding whether it would continue.

That obligation could be enforced through a court order compelling the authorities to perform their duty, the judge held.

Government maintained during the case that it respected the child's right to health and had not breached the Children's Act. Maphakwane nevertheless found that its evidence did not establish that the care being provided met the child's particular needs.

The court directed government to fund the continuation of her treatment at Sidilega.

Financial Pressure Pushing Men Into Trouble- Ndadi

RIGHT ►

Ndadi said rising prices, job losses and a struggling economy were leaving some men unable to meet daily expenses and family responsibilities.



BOIKANYO MATHONSI

Financial pressure is pushing some men into debt and family conflict as they struggle to meet expectations that they should provide for their families, Ndadi Law Firm managing partner Uyapo Ndadi says.

Ndadi was speaking at a Botswana Teachers Union (BTU) Gender and Human Rights Sector webinar on 22 September. Held under the theme “Nitty-Gritty of Life: Being a Man in an Unstable Economy”, the webinar examined the pressures facing men.

Ndadi said rising prices, job losses and a struggling economy were leaving some men unable to meet daily expenses and family responsibilities.



“We have men who are not able to meet their day to day expenses,



He warned that pressure to provide, or to appear successful, could lead to poor decisions and sometimes crime.

“Men sometimes end

up engaging in criminal activities simply because there is pressure at home,” he said.

Ndadi also urged men to take their responsibilities to their children seriously, warning that failure to provide support can have legal consequences. He spoke about economic abuse, which Botswana’s Domestic Violence Act recognises as a form of domestic violence.

Turning to employment, Ndadi said men should know their rights under the new labour law. He pointed to a 70% limit on certain authorised wage deductions, protections during retrenchment and restrictions on fixed-term contracts lasting more than 12 months without justification.

“These are issues that we, as men, need to be aware of so that we can assert our rights going forward,” he said.

Ndadi said paternity and adoption leave also gave men opportunities to take a more active role in raising their children.

“When we are involved, we can play a meaningful role in the development and welfare of our children and families,” he said.

He cautioned against taking out loans or buying expensive cars and houses to impress others, urging men to consider what they could afford over the long term.

“You cannot give what you do not have,” he said.

Ndadi said there was

no shame in cutting back when circumstances changed, even if that meant moving to a smaller home or giving up an expensive lifestyle.

“What is important is that we understand our circumstances and adjust our lives accordingly,” he said.

Grandmother Sues Govt For P4 Million Over Medical Care

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yield meaningful benefit after the time that had elapsed.

Monnayoo argues that this supported her case that timely treatment had been essential and that its interruption contributed to her granddaughter's deterioration. That interpretation is her pleaded position.

The P4 million claim covers a lifetime caregiver, special education, future operations and medical expenses, transport and psychological support. It also seeks compensation for pain and suffering and the loss of the ability to live with a better-managed condition.

The declaration alleges that the child

needs continuing help with personal care and repositioning, and has serious difficulties with speech. It presents the requested compensation as provision for those continuing needs as well as the harm alleged to have already occurred.

Monnayoo asks the court to declare that the defendants were grossly negligent and seeks legal costs on the attorney-and-own-client scale.

Government rejects the negligence allegation. Its appearance to defend states: “The Defendants have always maintained the highest standard of care at all material times to the Plaintiff’s minor child.”

Kgotla Takes Centre Stage At Global Democracy Forum

CHRONICLE REPORTER

Botswana's kgotla will take centre stage when political leaders, academics and civil society groups from around the world gather in Gaborone next month to examine how citizens can have a stronger say in decisions that affect them.

The Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy will run from 7 to 10 October at the University of Botswana, bringing the event to Southern Africa for the first time. It comes days after Botswana marks 60 years of independence.

Under the theme "Indigenous. Resilient. Empowering.", the forum will examine how traditional forms of public consultation can work alongside elections, parliaments and newer ways of involving citizens in government.

The kgotla, where communities gather to discuss public matters, is central to that discussion. Organisers say Botswana's experience could offer lessons to other countries seeking to give people more influence over decisions made in their name.

The draft programme takes those discussions beyond the conference hall. Delegates are scheduled to visit the Tlokweng Main Kgotla, hosted by Kgosi Puso Gaborone, and the Ramotswa Kgotla, hosted by Kgosi Mosadi Seboko. Separate sessions at the university will examine youth participation and



▲ **ABOVE:** Tlokweng Kgotla is to be visited by delegates

feminist approaches to the kgotla.

The visits will give international participants a chance to speak with chiefs and headmen. The programme says observing a live kgotla session at either village will depend on whether one can be arranged.

Constitutional reform is another focus. Organisers have cited public consultations on the proposed establishment of a Constitutional Court as an example of how citizens can be brought into discussions about the country's institutions. A panel on citizen-led constitutional reform will compare experiences from different countries.

The question of whether public views shape decisions will also reach Parliament. Speaker of the National Assembly Dithapelo Keorapetse and Leader of the Opposition Dumelang Saleshando are listed for a discussion on linking citizens' input to parliamentary work between elections.

Botswana's diamonds will

be part of the conversation, too. A session on natural resources will ask who gets a say in decisions about extraction and how the benefits are shared. It will consider ways for communities and workers to participate more fully in resource governance.

The subject carries particular weight for Botswana as the country looks for new sources of growth while managing pressure on an economy long dependent on diamonds. Discussions on climate change will also consider how communities can help shape responses to environmental threats.

Young people are set to have their own platform through a youth kgotla and sessions on leadership and participation. The programme also includes talks on elections, referendum safeguards, regional cooperation and the role of citizens in the African Union.

Former President Mokgweetsi Masisi is listed to deliver an opening keynote. His appearance would come

nearly two years after the 2024 election ended the Botswana Democratic Party's 58 years in power and brought the Umbrella for Democratic Change into government.

The forum is organised by the University of Botswana and Democracy International with international partners. It will bring together politicians, election specialists, researchers and activists, while giving local civil society groups a chance to compare their work with experiences elsewhere.

The forum began in Switzerland in 2008 and has since travelled to cities including Tunis, Rome, Mexico City and Bucharest, bringing discussions about citizen participation to different political settings.

Organisers say the event is free and open to the public, with registration available online. For Botswana, it offers an opportunity to share the kgotla tradition and examine whether citizens' voices carry weight when decisions are made.

BNF's Second Act



BOIKANYO MATHONSI

The Botswana National Front (BNF) will debate cadre employment and its role in government at a special policy conference in Selebi-Phikwe from 9 to 11 October, as it adjusts to life in power after decades in opposition.

Speaking at a press briefing ahead of the conference, BNF Vice President Moeti Mohwasa said the Umbrella for Democratic Change's 2024 election victory had raised new questions for the party.

"The attainment of state power in 2024 has created a new political environment and with it new responsibilities," he said.

Mohwasa said the BNF needed to examine how its members and structures should work alongside government institutions.

"It provides an opportunity to examine how the movement should relate to the institutions of government, and how we should organise ourselves

in a way that allows the movement to remain effective while serving through those institutions," he said.

The conference will also consider which BNF policies remain relevant, which need to change and how the party's programme fits within the wider UDC government.

"The question is how do you navigate that space between a political movement with its own programme and being part of a coalition government," Mohwasa said.

He said the party's central committee had begun reviewing its priorities at a leadership retreat earlier this year. That review, he added, must consider what the party's participation in government delivers to citizens, rather than simply the positions its members hold.

Mohwasa also called for stronger party structures and said the BNF should remain guided by its principles.

"We have to look at how the movement functions in this new environment, how our structures relate to government and how we continue to advance the programme of the movement," he said.



▲ ABOVE: Mohwasa

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Botswana Absent During Netanyahu UN Address Despite 'Excellent Relations' With Israel

Botswana was absent from its seat during Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's address to the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Thursday, despite International Relations Minister Dr Phenyio Butale saying that Gaborone maintains "excellent relations" with Israel.

RIGHT ►
Boko and company are back home

TSAONE SEGAETSHO



President Duma Boko led Botswana's delegation to the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly, with Butale among the senior officials accompanying him. However, neither Boko nor Butale was in the chamber when Netanyahu approached the podium, according to a source close to the developments who spoke to *The Monday Chronicle*.

Netanyahu's address prompted a mass departure from the General Assembly hall, as diplomats protested Israel's military campaign in Gaza and its actions elsewhere in the region. An Anadolu Agency review of footage reported that delegations from nearly 70 countries either walked out or remained absent during the speech.

Botswana was listed alongside Spain, Brazil, Peru, Cuba, Nigeria, Ghana, Libya, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Oman, Niger and Madagascar, among other countries. Available footage does not establish whether Botswana's representatives joined the walkout or were already absent when Netanyahu began speaking. The government has

not formally explained the absence. The source described Botswana's approach to sensitive international disputes as cautious, saying Gaborone generally seeks to preserve diplomatic relationships rather than become involved in confrontations.

"Gaborone does not like stepping on toes or starting any fight with any country, as it likes making friends rather than making enemies," the source said.

Botswana has, however, previously taken clear positions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The country supports Palestinian self-determination and a negotiated two-state solution, while maintaining diplomatic relations with Israel.

Following the outbreak of the Gaza war in October 2023, Botswana condemned attacks against civilians by both sides, called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and reiterated its support for a two-state solution.

At the Non-Aligned Movement summit in January 2024, Botswana again called for an end to hostilities in Gaza, increased humanitarian assistance and

reaffirmed support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and independence.

That position has continued under Boko. Speaking in 2025, the President said the situation in Gaza should "prick the collective conscience of all" and expressed Botswana's solidarity with Palestinians.

"We stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their pursuit of a home and of dignity," Boko said, while calling for an end to the war through a peaceful resolution.

Speaking to *The Monday Chronicle* while travelling back to Botswana from New York, Butale confirmed that he had attended the UN General Assembly as part of Botswana's delegation.

"We have excellent relations with Israel," Butale said when asked about the state of relations between the two countries.

Botswana and Israel have longstanding diplomatic ties and have cooperated in agriculture, water management, technology, education, investment and mining.

Agriculture has been one of the most visible areas of

cooperation, with Botswana seeking Israeli expertise in irrigation, drought-resistant crop production, agricultural mechanisation and the use of saline water.

The relationship has also included skills development. The Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Israel's Sedot Negev Regional Council signed an agreement establishing a student training programme. Botswana have also received scholarships and agricultural training in Israel, including a group of 35 BUAN students who travelled there for exposure to advanced agricultural technologies.

However, the bilateral relationship has not prevented Gaborone from disagreeing publicly with Israeli policy. In 2021, Botswana opposed the decision to grant Israel observer status at the African Union, saying Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territory was inconsistent with AU principles.

Botswana also reaffirmed its support for Palestinian self-determination and independence.

When asked whether Botswana had participated in the walkout, Butale did not immediately respond. Instead, he proposed a detailed interview after the Independence holidays to discuss Botswana's relationship with Israel.

Botswana's absence came amid heightened scrutiny of Israel over the war in Gaza. Netanyahu is also subject to an International Criminal Court arrest warrant issued in November 2024. The allegations against him include war crimes and crimes against humanity, but they have not been adjudicated at trial.

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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.

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Training & Stakeholders

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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.

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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.*

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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.

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Learning & Curriculum

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

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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

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ENQUIRIES

Mr. Nelson Mathabathe

nelson@emeritusacademy.co.za

CLOSING DATE

09 October 2026

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Inquest Probes Potso Joseph's Death In Police Shooting



PICS: Botswana Police Service

TSAONE SEGAE TSHO

An inquest into the death of Potso Joseph was held in Palapye last week, nearly three years after he was fatally struck in the head by a projectile fired from a police riot gun during what police say began as a stop over a defective rear tail light.

Lawyer Dr Tshepang Makwati, who was involved in the inquest, said the proceedings were a fact-finding inquiry aimed at establishing the circumstances surrounding Joseph's death.

"The inquest is, in essence, a fact-finding inquiry to determine the circumstances of the killing of Mr Potso Joseph, who was killed on 23 December 2023 at Palapye," Makwati said.

According to Makwati, Joseph was struck by a projectile discharged from a police riot gun.

Police claim they stopped Joseph because one of the rear tail lights on the vehicle he was driving was not working.

According to a founding affidavit filed by Joseph's

mother, Ponatshego Joseph, her son was driving in Palapye with his fiancée, Keneilwe Sekopo, and their six-month-old daughter after leaving Kediretswe Clinic, where the baby had received medical attention.

Joseph's mother said the only account she had of what happened that night came from Sekopo, who was with her son when the incident occurred.

"I must state at the onset that the only account I have of how my son was killed is from the account of his fiancée, who was with him on the night of the incident,"

She said no government official had explained the circumstances surrounding her son's death. During last week's inquest,



▲ **ABOVE:** The Commissioner of Botswana Police Service (BPS), Dinah Marathe

evidence was heard from one of the Special Support Group (SSG) officers involved in the incident.

According to Makwati, the officer told the inquest that the riot gun discharged as he stepped out of the police Land Cruiser, with the projectile striking Joseph in the head.

The officer's account was that the weapon had gone off accidentally.

The circumstances surrounding the discharge form part of what the inquest is seeking to establish, including how a police operation that authorities say began over a defective tail light ended with Joseph being fatally struck by a police projectile.

Last week's proceedings followed a lengthy effort by Joseph's family to secure an official inquiry into his death.

Earlier this year, his mother approached the

High Court seeking an order compelling state authorities to conduct an inquest. Her application cited the Commissioner of Police, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Palapye District Commissioner, the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, and the Attorney General as respondents.

The Director of Public Prosecutions subsequently decided that a full inquest should be conducted into Joseph's death. The matter was then registered before the Palapye Magistrate's Court.

The inquest is intended to establish the cause and circumstances of Joseph's death, as well as the sequence of events surrounding the fatal discharge. It is a fact-finding judicial inquiry and does not, by itself, determine criminal liability.

Botswana Imports Dairy Cattle As National Herd Comes Under Pressure

TSAONE SEGAETSHO

Botswana has received another 205 high-yielding Girolando dairy cattle from Brazil for Botswana Development Corporation's (BDC) Milk Valley Farm, expanding the country's specialised dairy herd as the national cattle population declines.

The cattle arrived this week as the second consignment under BDC's dairy expansion programme, following the first shipment in July. Another 206 are expected within days, bringing the total number imported from Brazil to 600.

The arrivals come weeks after Statistics Botswana released findings from the 2025 Agricultural Census, showing that Botswana had 1,638,543 cattle in 2025, down from 1,744,166 recorded in 2015. This represents a decline of 105,623 cattle, or 6.1 percent.

The 600 Brazilian dairy cattle represent 0.037 percent of Botswana's national herd. They are being imported for a purpose: increasing domestic milk production rather than replenishing the beef cattle herd.

Milk Valley, located in Lobatse, is being expanded into a commercial dairy operation. BDC is targeting a herd of about 3,000 cattle and annual milk production of 15 million litres. The Girolando breed was selected for its milk production potential and adaptability to warmer climatic conditions.

The census highlights the pressure facing the cattle industry, particularly traditional farmers. Traditional cattle numbers



▲ **ABOVE:** Arrival of another 205 high-yielding Girolando dairy cattle from Brazil

fell by 13.1 percent between the two censuses, while the commercial cattle population increased by 18.8 percent. The average commercial herd grew from 295 to 312 cattle.

The decline was accompanied by fewer births and more deaths. Cattle births fell by 14.3 percent to 373,807, while deaths increased by 30.7 percent to 143,076. Ministry of Lands and Agriculture Deputy Permanent Secretary Kefentse Motshegwa attributed the contraction in traditional cattle farming to droughts during the 2023/24 and 2024/25 agricultural seasons, which reduced grazing and water availability and increased livestock mortality.

Disease has also taken a heavy toll. Following the 2022 Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in Zone 6B in the North East District, Government depopulated the affected area to eradicate the disease and prevent its spread. Official figures show that 10,219 cattle were culled, while 7,981 replacement cattle were later earmarked for 976 affected farmers.

FMD has returned as a challenge in 2026, with cases confirmed in Zones 3C and 6B. The outbreaks prompted vaccination and restrictions on the movement of cloven-hoofed animals. By February, veterinary authorities said 15,305 cattle had been vaccinated out of an expected 17,000.

The outbreak affected BDC's dairy expansion. The first Milk Valley heifers had been purchased and were under quarantine in Brazil when their shipment was halted in May because of FMD-related movement restrictions in Botswana. Milk Valley was granted FMD-Free Dairy Compartment Status by the Department of Veterinary Services in June, creating the biosecurity framework for importing and expanding its herd.

The arrival of the Brazilian cattle reflects two contrasting developments in Botswana's livestock industry. Government and BDC are investing in a specialised commercial dairy herd to increase local milk production, while the much larger national herd, dominated by traditional farming, continues to shrink.

Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship Tiroeaone Ntsima, who travelled to Brazil and accompanied the consignment, said the Milk Valley investment was aimed at strengthening food security and building dairy production. BDC Managing Director Oteng Keabetswe said it would also create opportunities in fodder production, veterinary services, transport, cold-chain services and downstream dairy processing.

For BDC, the 600 Brazilian cattle are less about national herd numbers than productivity. They form part of a plan to increase domestic milk production and reduce Botswana's reliance on imported dairy products while the broader cattle industry faces drought, disease, declining births and rising deaths.

Young Inventors Hub Builds Pathway From Ideas to Employment



NNASARETHA KGAMANYANE

A new youth-focused innovation ecosystem is working to close the gap between talent and opportunity for young Batswana, moving learners beyond theory into practical skills, entrepreneurship and employability.

The Young Inventors Hub (YIH), a Botswana-based initiative co-founded and chaired by Thamia Maleme, is designed to help young people move from ideas and potential to practical skills, innovation and real opportunities in the digital economy.

"We were created because we saw a gap between young people having talent or qualifications and actually having the practical skills, exposure, networks and support needed to turn that potential into employment, entrepreneurship or meaningful innovation," Maleme said.

Rather than running isolated training

programmes, YIH is building what she describes as a connected ecosystem that brings together digital skills, Artificial Intelligence, STEM, entrepreneurship, mentorship and employability.

"Rather than simply running training programmes, we are building pathways through which a young person can identify a problem, research it, develop a solution, build relevant skills and eventually connect that capability to employment, enterprise or further opportunities," she said.

Central to the Hub's approach is its multi-disciplinary model. For YIH, innovation does not happen in silos.

"A young person may be interested in coding, while another may be interested in agriculture, business, design, robotics, education, cybersecurity, digital marketing or solving a community problem.

Innovation happens when these different areas begin to connect," Maleme explained.

The Hub is currently focused on school learners and young adults, but its wider ecosystem also includes teachers, university students, professionals, mentors, institutions and organisations.

Support is structured around the innovation journey. It includes structured learning, mentorship, digital skills development, career preparation, entrepreneurship, access to specialists, prototyping and linkages to institutions and potential partners.

"We are also building pathways towards funding and opportunity linkages rather than positioning YIH itself as a funding organisation,"

This year, YIH is piloting two concurrent programmes that form what Maleme calls two parts of one ecosystem.

The first is the School Innovation Outreach Programme (SIOP), a 10-week school-based programme currently being implemented in three schools; Bonnington CJSS, Moselewapula CJSS and Enko Botho Academy with about 35 learners per school.

"The programme is designed as a journey rather than a once-off workshop," she said. Learners begin by observing their environment and identifying real problems, forming teams, conducting research, using digital and AI tools to explore solutions, and eventually moving towards prototyping and pitching.

Exposure to AI, digital tools, STEM, coding and robotics, cybersecurity and responsible technology is embedded throughout.

"The intention is to create a repeatable school innovation pathway where young people learn not simply to consume technology, but to use it to understand and solve problems," Maleme said.

The second programme, the National Digital Employability and Innovation Programme (NDEIP), targets the transition from potential to employability. With 35 confirmed mentees in its current pilot, NDEIP brings together digital productivity, coding foundations, Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity awareness, innovation and design thinking, career readiness, CV and LinkedIn development, interview preparation and professional evidence-

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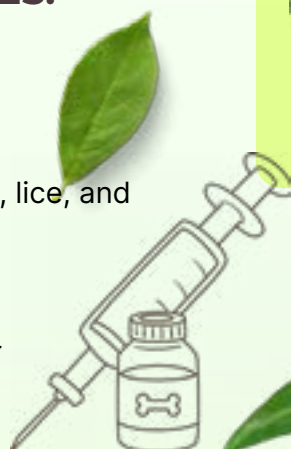
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Editorial

— *Comment* —

Children Deserve Care Without A Court Battle

A child's chance of recovery should not depend on whether a grandmother can find lawyers and take government to court.

The case involving the withdrawal of specialist rehabilitation from a young girl should force an examination of how Botswana protects children who need medical care.

In its April 2025 judgment, the High Court found that government had failed to provide the highest attainable standard of care required for the child's condition. It ordered her referral back to Sidilega Private Hospital at government expense.

That ruling deserves attention beyond the family.

The Children's Act recognises every child's right to the highest attainable standard of health and medical care. Where families cannot secure that care because of financial difficulties or other recognised circumstances, government has a duty to act.

A family's lack of money should therefore never become a reason to leave a child without necessary treatment.

Children cannot negotiate hospital referrals, challenge funding decisions or instruct lawyers on their own. They depend on adults and public institutions to protect their interests. That dependence places a greater responsibility on those making decisions about their health.

Government denies negligence in the separate P4 million lawsuit. The compensation claim must be decided on the evidence. Our concern here is the duty to ensure that children receive appropriate care when they need it.

Public funds are limited, and health officials must make difficult choices. But those choices require clear reasons, medical advice and careful consideration of what an interruption in treatment could mean for a child.

If specialist care is withdrawn, families deserve an explanation. Where an alternative is offered, authorities should demonstrate that it can meet the child's needs. A referral should not disappear into unanswered letters and uncertain arrangements.

The judgment questioned government's failure to explain why the child was not returned to specialist treatment. It also found that claims about high costs and limited improvement lacked documentary support.

These are failures that clear procedures and accountable leadership should address.

Hospitals and the ministry need systems to track referrals, review interrupted treatment and respond promptly to families. A named official should take responsibility for resolving each referral.

Families also need an accessible complaints process that can secure action before they are forced into litigation.

The measure of our commitment to children's rights is whether those rights shape everyday decisions in clinics, hospitals and government offices.

Children need timely care, clear answers and protection.

Young Inventors Hub Builds Pathway From Ideas to Employment

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building.

"One of the things we have recognised is that young people can have skills but still struggle to communicate those skills, market themselves, build professional networks or understand where their capabilities fit within the changing world of work. That is the gap NDEIP is trying to address," Maleme said.

Running both programmes concurrently, he said, has been intentional.

"SIOP begins earlier in the pipeline. It introduces young people to problem-solving, innovation, technology and entrepreneurial thinking while they are still in school. NDEIP focuses more heavily on digital capability, employability, professional readiness and entrepreneurship. So the pathway we are trying to build is exposure, skills, innovation, employability and entrepreneurship."

While current delivery is concentrated in Gaborone to properly test the model, YIH is already thinking beyond the capital.

"At this stage, I would be careful not to claim that we have already achieved nationwide or rural reach. Our 2026 rollout is a pilot," Maleme said. "One of the reasons we are exploring hybrid delivery is precisely because physical location should not always determine whether a young person can access a specialist facilitator."

On impact, Maleme is cautious about overstating success.

"Because this is our 2026 pilot rollout, I would not want to overstate where we are. Rather than claiming that we have already produced a large number of commercial inventions, our immediate measure of success is whether we can help young people develop real problem-solving capability, stronger digital skills, viable ideas, prototypes and clearer pathways into opportunities," she said.

Like many hubs, YIH has faced funding and human resource challenges, having self-funded much of the work to date.

"Transport, learning resources, specialist facilitators, mentorship, equipment, venues, connectivity and other operational requirements all require a stronger partnership base," she said.

Looking ahead, the vision is ambitious: a sustainable, Botswana-based innovation and opportunity ecosystem that can be replicated across schools and communities and connected to universities, TVET institutions, employers and partners.

"The Hub is intended to be an ecosystem, and its strength will come from the number and quality of people and institutions willing to build that ecosystem with us," Maleme said.

Series 1: Beyond Electricity Access: The Challenge of Energy Affordability in Botswana

Botswana's transition towards greater private-sector participation in electricity generation presents an opportunity to diversify the economy, accelerate renewable energy investment and strengthen energy security. However, expanding electricity supply does not automatically address energy affordability and energy poverty. Without effective regulation and deliberate socio-economic measures, private investment may increase generation capacity without ensuring that electricity remains affordable, reliable and accessible to all.

Botswana's emerging Independent Power Producer (IPP) framework demonstrates this potential. Solar projects at Bobonong and Shakawe, alongside the two-phase, 50-megawatt Mmadinare project and the 100-megawatt Jwaneng project, illustrate the growing role of independent generation. In 2024, Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) concluded 25-year Power Purchase Agreements with six citizen-owned IPP companies for eight grid-connected solar projects totalling 26 megawatts.

Amendments to the Electricity Supply Act enabled IPP participation in electricity generation, while BPC retains responsibility for transmission and distribution. The National Energy Policy of 2021 recognises IPPs as a



**Dr. Cheludo
Tinaye Butale**

mechanism for expanding generation capacity, while the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority regulates the electricity sector. Botswana's Integrated Resource Plan targets a 30 percent renewable share of the energy mix by 2030. Achieving this ambition requires procurement, financing and tariff arrangements that balance investment incentives with consumer affordability.

Botswana's growing Independent Power Producer (IPP) market offers opportunities to expand generation capacity, accelerate renewable energy investment and strengthen energy security. However, increased private-sector participation does not automatically guarantee affordable electricity. Long-term Power Purchase Agreements provide revenue certainty for investors but also create financial commitments

for electricity purchasers. The costs of generation, financing and electricity procurement can ultimately affect tariffs, public finances and consumers. Botswana's challenge is that electricity affordability is inseparable from Botswana's wider inequalities. According to the African Development Bank's Botswana Economic Outlook, approximately 17 percent of the population lives in extreme poverty, while a Gini coefficient of 0.53 reflects substantial income inequality. High unemployment, particularly among young people, further constrains household purchasing power. Consequently, even modest electricity tariff increases can disproportionately affect low-income households, forcing difficult choices between electricity, food, transport, education and healthcare. Although IPPs can reduce supply vulnerabilities, their contribution to affordability will depend on procurement costs, financing arrangements, contractual terms and effective tariff regulation.

Despite improvements in electricity access, affordability remains a significant barrier. Government introduced the National Electricity Standard Connection Cost in 2010 to subsidise connections and announced a zero-cost connection policy in April 2024. Nevertheless, households may still struggle to afford internal wiring, electrical

appliances and ongoing electricity consumption. By 2024/2025, electricity access had reached approximately 76.6 percent, leaving significant access gaps, particularly in remote rural communities. Continued reliance on traditional biomass for cooking further illustrates the extent of energy deprivation. Solar Home Systems offer an alternative, although their uptake remains constrained by the early stage of the market and affordability barriers with limited uptake through an informal market.

Energy poverty also has consequences beyond household expenditure. Inadequate access to reliable and affordable electricity can undermine health, educational achievement and productivity. Small businesses face higher operating costs, limiting production, competitiveness and employment creation. These burdens are unevenly distributed. Rural households, low-income families, women and female-headed households may face additional disadvantages arising from income disparities, unpaid care responsibilities, housing conditions and limited access to productive resources.

Botswana therefore needs an electricity affordability framework that addresses inequality alongside generation expansion.

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WHY BOTSWANA DOES NOT NEED AN UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE, BUT A FOOD PRODUCTION ALLOWANCE

Botswana have heard this debate twice now. The previous regime whispered about it through the then Minister of Finance. The current regime is now posting about it on social media if at all what we see is authentic. Both call it an "unemployment allowance."

I have a different view.

An unemployment allowance is government confessing that it has run out of ideas. It says: "We cannot find you work, so here is money to wait at home."

But Botswana is a country that imports more than 80% of its food. We spend billions of Pula every year paying South African farmers to feed us, while our own children sit idle in Kanye, Maun, Letlhakane, Palapye and other places.

Why should we pay people to wait, when we can pay them to produce the very food we are importing? Other countries who have unemployment allowance produce food for themselves and their allowances buy their own food. But our is going to buy food that we import. Of course the Unemployment Allowance



Moiseralele Master Goya

Former Assistant Minister and Member of Parliament for Palapye

in other countries like South Africa, keeps people alive but it does not reduce unemployment. Youth unemployment in South Africa is 60% because it became a permanent plan.

I do not believe in an unemployment allowance. I believe in a Food Production Allowance.

What is the difference?
The money is the same.
The outcome is different.

If you give 10,000 youth P1,000 per month to stay at home, you spend P120 million per year. At the end of the year, you still import food, and the youth is still unemployed - just with a

little cash.

If you take that same P120 million and hire those 10,000 youth to work on farms to produce food, you spend the same money, but at the end of the year you have reduced the import bill, you have fed the nation, and you have trained 10,000 future farmers.

My proposal is simple and practical. I call it SKWATA SA DIJO- THE FOOD ARMY.

Government must identify productive land - in Pandamatenga, Barolong, Boteti and Chobe, Leupane, Tswapong and other places, where water is available.

Then the National Development Bank (NDB) must finance that land not just with seeds, fertilizers and tractors, but with decent, temporary pot-cabins where these young people will stay full-time. A nice cabin with solar power, water and a bed or good mattresses. Not a tent. A dignified home near the field. This small addition costs less than P40,000 per unit, but it turns a farm project into a productive village. If they stay there, they will farm seriously. No transport problems. No theft. No absentee farming.

These young people will be paid P1,500 to P2,500 per

month. That payment is the Food Production Allowance. It is not a handout. It is a wage for work that feeds the nation. The allowance must be paid upfront to enable them to buy groceries for themselves.

Their produce will be bought first by government - for schools, hospitals, the army and the police - as part of the Home-Grown School Feeding programme. Whatever remains will be sold on the open market.

After two years, we will not have 10,000 allowance dependents. We will have 10,000 trained farmers with savings, discipline and experience, ready to get their own 4-hectare farms under Landboard field allocations.

This is what I mean by "Treat Food Like Diamonds" and "Talent is an Industry." A diamond mine hires people to dig. A food farm must hire people to grow food.

Botswana does not have a shortage of money to pay allowances. Botswana has a shortage of wisdom to turn that allowance into production.

We should not pay people to be unemployed. We should pay people to feed us.

Series 1: Beyond Electricity Access: The Challenge of Energy Affordability in Botswana

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This should connect IPP procurement, project financing and tariff regulation to measurable consumer outcomes. Targeted social protection, affordable connection financing, decentralised renewable energy

and local employment opportunities could help distribute the benefits of private investment more equitably.

An effective affordability framework must look beyond electricity tariffs, assessing three interconnected dimensions: financial cost, household income,

and service quality and reliability — with indicators disaggregated by gender, income and location to identify who faces the greatest constraints.

Ultimately, Botswana's energy transition should not be measured by installed capacity or connection rates

alone. Its success must also be assessed by whether households and businesses can afford reliable electricity. The objective is to ensure that IPPs and wider electricity-sector reforms strengthen energy security while reducing inequality and contributing to inclusive, sustainable socio-economic transformation.

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T's & C's Apply

Botswana Has a Copy-and-Paste Problem



Dr Keotshepile Motseonageng

THE BUSINESS OF INFLUENCE

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
LAW

As Botswana prepares to celebrate 60 years of Independence, our streets and social-media timelines are beautifully dressed in blue, black and white.

T-shirts. Dresses. Hats. Scarves. Corporate wear. Independence merchandise is everywhere.

But as an intellectual property practitioner, I look at some of these products differently.

I see an uncomfortable question:

Where is the originality?

Too many products look remarkably similar. One person releases something today and, shortly afterwards, versions resembling the same concept appear elsewhere.

This is bigger than

Botswana 60 merchandise. It exposes something we urgently need to confront in our creative and business sectors:

Botswana is developing a copy-and-paste culture.

We have talented designers, photographers, musicians, writers, content creators and entrepreneurs. What we have not developed strongly enough is a culture of treating creativity as property.

Someone designs something brilliant.

It trends.

Someone else reproduces it.

The original creator complains on Facebook.

People comment, "Bathong, ba go kopile!"

Three days later, everybody moves on.

That cannot be our intellectual property enforcement system.

The misconception that creative work has no protection unless it has first been registered must also be corrected. Under Botswana's copyright framework, qualifying original works can receive copyright protection through their creation.

But having a right and being prepared to enforce that right are two different

things.

Creators must become disciplined about documenting the creative process, retaining original files and dated drafts, understanding who owns commissioned work, using written contracts, registering rights where the applicable IP system provides for registration, protecting trademarks and industrial designs where appropriate, and taking legal action when circumstances justify it.

Most importantly, we must stop treating copying as flattery.

Copying can have an economic cost.

When somebody spends money developing an original fashion concept and another business simply imitates it, the second business may avoid the research, development and creative investment undertaken by the first.

That destroys the incentive to innovate.

It also explains why intellectual property must become part of Botswana's broader conversation about economic diversification.

We cannot tell young people to enter the creative economy while simultaneously creating an environment in which original ideas can be

commercially exploited without meaningful consequences.

Botswana 60 should therefore represent more than 60 years of political independence.

It should provoke a conversation about economic independence through ownership.

Our next generation of entrepreneurs must understand that creativity is not merely talent. It can be an asset.

Create something original. Document it.

Understand which intellectual property rights apply.

Protect what can be protected.

License what can be commercialised.

And where your legally protected work is unlawfully exploited, be prepared to enforce your rights.

Because until somebody pays a meaningful price for commercially copying what belongs to another, copying will continue to look cheaper than creativity.

At 60, Botswana should be producing more than merchandise.

We should be producing original intellectual property and building a culture that respects the people who create it.

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CYBER DIPLOMACY IS CRITICAL FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

Cyber diplomacy is no longer a specialized policy track for large powers; it is becoming a strategic necessity for middle powers and small states that need to protect sovereignty, economic continuity, and political stability under permanent cyber pressure. For years, many governments treated cyber incidents as technical disruptions to be handled by IT, intelligence, or law enforcement, but that view is now obsolete. The current threat environment is shaped by persistent campaigns where state-backed or state-aligned actors operate below the threshold of formal war. They target data, logistics, identity systems, financial rails, telecom infrastructure, and public trust, and their objective is often not immediate destruction; it is pressure, leverage, and strategic signaling.

This matters especially for middle powers and small states because they are usually more exposed to interdependence: their growth models depend on open trade, digital services, cross-border finance, cloud dependence, and foreign technology ecosystems. That interdependence creates opportunity, but it also creates structural vulnerability: a coordinated cyber campaign can degrade confidence in institutions, disrupt exports, delay payments, and raise the cost of governance without a single

conventional shot being fired. That is exactly why cyber diplomacy is indispensable; it is the part of statecraft that translates cyber risk into strategic action across institutions and borders and allows governments to do at least six things that pure technical defense cannot do alone.

First, it creates coalition leverage:

A small state acting alone has limited coercive capacity; the same state acting through regional blocs, multilateral forums, and aligned partners can shape norms, increase political cost for malicious behavior, and build collective response options.

Second, it converts attribution into consequence:

Technical attribution is necessary, but by itself it does not change adversary behavior. Diplomatic coordination can connect attribution to joint statements, legal action, sanctions alignment, travel restrictions, procurement consequences, and reputational penalties.

Third, it builds crisis communication channels that reduce escalation risk:

In periods of geopolitical tension, uncertainty and miscalculation can be as dangerous as hostile intent. Cyber diplomacy helps establish structured communication, confidence-building measures, and protocols that lower the probability of accidental escalation.

Fourth, it protects economic credibility:

Investors, insurers, and strategic partners increasingly evaluate cyber governance as a proxy for state capacity. Countries with coherent cyber diplomacy signal predictability, institutional maturity, and lower systemic risk.

Fifth, it accelerates capability through partnerships:

Not every state can independently build full-spectrum cyber capacity quickly. Diplomatic architecture enables training, joint exercises, incident response cooperation, and institutional learning that close gaps faster than

isolated national efforts.

Sixth, it links domestic governance to external legitimacy:

A country cannot credibly advocate responsible behavior internationally while maintaining fragmented authorities, weak legal frameworks, or unclear national roles at home. Cyber diplomacy forces this alignment by design.

Two practical lessons emerge from countries that institutionalized cyber diplomacy rather than treating it as ad hoc engagement: Estonia built a dedicated cyber diplomacy function and integrated it into foreign policy strategy. The result was not only visibility but also sustained influence in norm-setting conversations and legal framing debates disproportionate to its size. The key lesson is institutional continuity: influence came from consistent engagement over years, not one conference or one declaration. Australia formalized ambassador-level leadership for cyber affairs and linked external engagement to domestic priorities and regional partnerships. The result was stronger capacity-building pathways and more credible coalition action with like-minded states. The key lesson is policy integration: diplomacy worked because it connected foreign policy, security, legal tools, and critical infrastructure concerns.



Can African medicine and modern medicine coexist?

Monepenepe (*Cassia abbreviata*), Rooibos (*Aspalathus linearis*), and Sengaparile (*Harpagophytum procumbens*) are among the notable herbs extensively used across the African continent, as prescribed by herbalists and traditional healers. They have been used by indigenous people for thousands of years, and the medicinal properties of some have been scientifically established in recent years. Why, therefore, are these herbal prescriptions not incorporated into mainstream medicine?

You see, just because something works does not mean it is totally safe. For example, prolonged use or high-dose ingestion of monepenepe has been known to lead to kidney and liver damage. Therein lies the African problem: our knowledge stops at the corridor of "it works" and does not seek to establish how it works and the safety threshold.

The Scientific Problem, and Solution

The harsh truth we must confront is that Africa faces a profound epistemological hurdle—a worldview problem where, as a collective, we remain captive to antiquated approaches to reality rather than embracing the modern



technological frontier. We are simply not inquisitive enough to establish our own evidenced based path. True scientific sovereignty requires us to move past passive compliance and aggressively ask why something works, how it works, and at what precise threshold it functions.

Why and how monepenepe or any other native traditional remedy works should have been a question asked generations ago. The pursuit of that understanding should have spurred the collective development of our own techniques for chemical isolation and testing to establish active ingredients and safe dosages. Had that framework of study been adopted in times past, many of our herbal remedies would have been researched, tested, or even engineered to be part of mainline treatment regimes. Due to a historical lack of research funding, very little data currently exists regarding their exact safety profiles.

Even if one could argue that this knowledge existed within ancient generations, how do you get past the glaring lack of documentation? Much of the knowledge on herbs held by African healers and herbalists is shrouded in mystery and secrecy, and that which is less obscure is passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth—what could go wrong?

Furthermore, this system presents a glaring structural vulnerability incompatible with modern practices across all sectors, not just healthcare: the absence of malpractice liability. In the current framework, if a patient is misdiagnosed, poisoned, or otherwise mistreated by a traditional practitioner, there is no formal regulatory oversight or legal mechanism to mediate the grievance. This lack of accountability leaves vulnerable patients without recourse and deeply undermines the credibility of traditional practice in the eyes of modern legal and

medical institutions.

Ultimately, Africa is spectacularly rich in herbal plants that hold immense pharmaceutical potential. The core problem is not a lack of natural resources, but our failure to establish a rigorous scientific framework to harness their healing power. Rectifying this must be our own initiative. We cannot wait for external entities to validate our heritage, as if they are morally obliged to. The scientific scrutiny we apply must be uncompromisingly rigorous. In that regard we don't have to reinvent the wheel, we simply utilize the tried and tested scientific methods of clinical research. The historical era of mixing various roots and leaves, operating on guesswork, and merely hoping for a cure without any foundational understanding of active compounds is long past and we must understand that most civilizations in antiquity used to practice such but have moved with the times as knowledge increased. We must utilize today's technological frontier to enter the era of precise, Afrocentric evidence-based medicine. The passage of the National Research and Innovation Council (NRIC) Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 23 of 2026) on July 29, 2026, serves as the foundational architecture for this exact shift.



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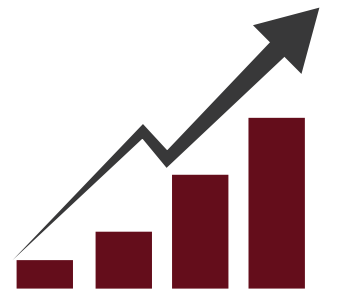


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Business



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Botswana Suffers Second Moody's Downgrade as Diamond Slump Tests Fiscal Recovery



Vice President and Minister of Finance Ndaba Nkosingithi Gaolathe

TSAONE SEGAETSHO

Moody's Ratings has further downgraded Botswana's sovereign credit rating from Baa1 to Baa2, marking the country's second downgrade in less than a year as weakening diamond revenues and fiscal pressures weigh on government finances.

The ratings agency announced the downgrade on Friday, while changing Botswana's outlook from negative to stable. The latest action leaves the country two notches above Moody's non-investment-grade threshold.

The decision follows Moody's downgrade of Botswana from A3 to

Baa1 in October 2025, extending a deterioration in the country's sovereign credit standing during the prolonged downturn in the diamond industry.

Moody's cited weaker diamond-sector revenue, lower-than-expected Southern African Customs Union receipts and disappointing proceeds from newly introduced tax measures as factors weakening Botswana's fiscal position.

The downgrade comes as Botswana seeks to rebuild fiscal buffers while meeting growing financing requirements and pursuing economic diversification.

The World Bank has also warned about the deterioration in

Botswana's fiscal position, saying public debt increased from 22% of GDP in 2023 to nearly 40% in 2025. It has called for stronger revenue mobilisation, more efficient public spending and improved oversight of state-owned enterprises.

The growing financing requirements have already prompted changes to Botswana's domestic borrowing framework. Parliament approved an increase in the government bond programme ceiling from P55 billion to P85 billion, expanding the government's room to raise funds from the domestic capital market.

Vice President and Minister of Finance Ndaba Nkosingithi Gaolathe recently sought to clarify

the purpose of the expanded programme.

"The P85 billion figure is an authorised programme ceiling. It is not a borrowing target," Gaolathe said, adding that actual issuance would reflect government financing requirements, its medium-term debt-management strategy, debt sustainability considerations and prevailing market conditions.

Government's latest fiscal estimates, however, show an improvement from projections made at the beginning of the financial year.

Gaolathe said the preliminary revised 2026/27 budget deficit is expected at P9.26 billion, or 3.1% of GDP, compared with the original projection of P26.35 billion, or 8.9% of GDP.

The improved projection follows expenditure controls and higher anticipated government revenue, including stronger-than-expected revenue from the Bank of Botswana.

The fiscal pressures highlighted by Moody's come as government pursues the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme, which is expected to require about P514 billion in cumulative

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Gaolathe Opens Door To Selling Underperforming SOEs



BOIKANYO MATHONSI

Botswana's state-owned enterprises could be sold, merged or restructured under a proposed Government ownership policy, with Vice President and Minister of Finance Ntseke Gaolathe saying the State must be prepared to change course when continued ownership no longer serves the public. Speaking at a stakeholder

engagement on the proposed State-Owned Enterprises Ownership Policy in Gaborone, Gaolathe said Government wants to regularly assess each SOE's purpose, performance, cost and value to the public.

"Where continued State ownership no longer delivers public value, Government should be prepared to dispose of

that interest through a transparent process," he said.

Gaolathe said the proposed policy comes as Government faces tighter public finances, growing demand for public services and pressure to broaden an economy whose traditional sources of revenue are under strain.

"The State should periodically examine each enterprise, whether its mandate remains relevant, and whether the present operating model still serves that purpose," he said.

Government is also considering private sector involvement where outside investment and expertise could strengthen an enterprise.

"Where partnership offers greater value, we should bring in private partners with capital, technology, market access and operating capability," Gaolathe said.

He said the reforms would strengthen

accountability by giving boards a clearer role and drawing firmer lines between ministers, boards and management.

"Government needs to know what it owns, what those enterprises cost, what value they create and where intervention is required," he said.

"Ministers should not become informal chief executives, boards should not become extensions of ministries, and management must know where operational authority lies."

Gaolathe said State ownership should be guided by a continuing public purpose, rather than by the fact that an enterprise has always belonged to Government.

Botswana Suffers Second Moody's Downgrade as Diamond Slump Tests Fiscal Recovery

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investment by 2036.

Government has said a significant proportion of the projects will be private-sector-led, making private capital mobilisation increasingly important as pressure on the public balance sheet grows.

The World Bank Group

announced earlier this month that it mobilised a record US\$112 billion in private capital in its 2026 financial year, including about US\$22 billion in Africa, as development institutions increasingly seek to use private investment alongside public financing.

Botswana remains investment grade following the latest Moody's action. The move to a stable outlook reflects expectations that a stronger fiscal policy response and a sustained recovery in diamond revenue could slow the pace of debt accumulation.

The downgrade nevertheless continues a sharp change in Botswana's sovereign credit profile, from A3 to Baa1 and now Baa2 in less than a year, as government seeks to contain debt, restore fiscal buffers and finance the country's economic diversification.

BoFiNet's 1Tbps Upgrade Faces Demand And Affordability Test

Botswana Fibre Networks (BoFiNet) has more than tripled international connectivity capacity through two South African border routes, from 300Gbps to 1Tbps, but the commercial benefits will depend on demand and whether the expansion makes internet access more affordable.

RIGHT ►

BoFinet has more than trippled internet connection capacity



TSAONE SEGAETSHO

The state-owned wholesale telecommunications infrastructure provider secured a long-term capacity lease with an unnamed strategic partner in South Africa, adding 700Gbps through the Ramatlabama and Pioneer Gate borders.

The expansion provides room for growing traffic from cloud computing, streaming, digital financial services, data centres and government platforms. BoFiNet says it will also strengthen network redundancy and reduce the risk of interruptions to international connectivity.

However, the company has not disclosed peak utilisation of the previous 300Gbps capacity or how much of the new capacity is committed to customers. The agreement's financial value and duration have also not been disclosed.

These figures would help establish whether

the expansion primarily addresses existing demand or prepares the network for future growth.

"This capacity agreement is a testament to our commitment to ensuring that our customers, and by extension the nation, have access to reliable, scalable, and cost-effective connectivity," BoFiNet Chief Executive Officer Dr Gaone Geoffrey Seleka said.

"We are building the infrastructure that will power Botswana's economy for decades to come."

The expansion follows upgrades to Botswana's internet gateway infrastructure, including BoFiNet's international Points of Presence. The company says these facilities connect directly with major content

networks, including Google, Meta's Facebook, Microsoft and Netflix, bringing internet content and cloud services closer to Botswana.

BoFiNet says its International Private Leased Circuit network reaches seven border posts and has a design capacity of 9.6Tbps, supporting services of up to 100Gbps per customer. That broader technical capacity is distinct from the 1Tbps now available through Ramatlabama and Pioneer Gate.

Greater international capacity can improve bandwidth economics by allowing more traffic over the network. It does not, however, guarantee immediate price reductions for households and businesses.

BoFiNet primarily supplies infrastructure and wholesale connectivity to telecommunications operators, internet service providers and businesses.

The affordability impact will depend partly on the cost of the additional capacity and whether the agreement lowers its cost per unit of bandwidth.

Any savings would then need to be reflected in wholesale tariffs and, subsequently, the prices operators and service providers charge their customers.

Demand is another test. If peak traffic was approaching the previous 300Gbps limit, the additional capacity provides room for growth and reduces congestion risks. If utilisation was substantially lower, the agreement represents a greater investment in future demand and network resilience.

BoFiNet has previously said national internet traffic has grown significantly over the past decade, requiring continued investment.

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RIGHT ▶

Gross profit declined to P701 million from P793 million

TSAONE SEGAETSHO



Sefalana Profit Falls 40% Despite Record P12bn Revenue

Sefalana Holdings recorded the highest revenue in its 52-year history in the year ended April 2026, but profit before tax fell 40 percent as weaker trading conditions in Botswana, disrupted government tenders and higher operating costs weighed on earnings.

The Botswana Stock Exchange-listed group generated revenue of P12.127 billion for the 52 weeks ended April 26, 2026, up 9 percent from P11.174 billion in the previous financial year. Profit before tax declined to P331 million from P550 million, while profit for the year fell to P234 million from P426 million.

Gross profit declined to P701 million from P793 million despite the increase in revenue, with the gross profit margin falling to 5.8 percent from 7.1 percent. Sefcash Botswana's gross profit margin declined to 4.0 percent from 5.4 percent.

Sefalana said trading conditions in Botswana were affected by the decline in global diamond demand, which reduced foreign-exchange inflows, constrained liquidity and increased borrowing costs.

The company said reduced disposable income resulted in consumers prioritising essential purchases, while demand for higher-margin discretionary and luxury products softened.

The group said the April 2026 financial year marked its first decline in profitability since the 2017 downturn that followed the BCL mine closures and related unemployment.

Sefalana attributed part of the 40 percent decline in profit before tax to once-off factors. The previous financial year included a P102 million fair-value gain arising from the acquisition of a South African investment at a discount to its fair value, while the July 2025 adjustment of the pula resulted in an additional P16 million cost.

The two items accounted for P118 million of the year-on-year decline in profit before tax. Excluding

them, underlying profit before tax declined by 19 percent, with Sefalana saying the majority of the reduction came from its Botswana operations.

Manufacturing profit declined by P72 million following a seven-month gap between government tenders. Sefalana said it had procured about P130 million worth of grain in anticipation of annual tender invitations issued in late 2025, which were later revoked.

The company's manufacturing operations participate in government programmes including the Tsabana and Malutu feeding schemes and the Children's UHT milk programme. Sefalana said a significant portion of the affected tenders was subsequently awarded to the group on an urgent basis in June 2026.

Sefalana has identified

government spending as a material issue for its manufacturing operations and said it is seeking to reduce its reliance on government tenders through increased branded-product sales and greater participation in the consumer market.

Electricity tariffs increased by about 24 percent during the financial year, resulting in an additional P25 million in power costs. Sefalana said solar installations at some of its stores provided partial mitigation.

The group also awarded wage increases of up to 23 percent to lower-earning employees, adding P14 million to personnel costs.

The July 2025 adjustment of the pula also increased the cost of imported goods. Sefalana said the

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Sefalana Profit Falls 40% Despite Record P12bn Revenue



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currency depreciated by approximately 8 percent against the South African rand following the adjustment. A substantial portion of products consumed in Botswana are imported from South Africa, while South African purchases account for a significant part of the group's procurement.

Botswana operations, which Sefalana said normally account for about two-thirds of group results, generated just over half of group profit during the financial year.

According to the group's segment results, Botswana consumer-goods trading generated P6.107 billion

in revenue and P112 million in profit before tax. Namibia's consumer-goods operation generated P4.418 billion in revenue and P129 million in profit before tax.

Sefalana operates in Botswana, Namibia and Lesotho and has investments in South Africa and Australia. The group said its expansion into neighbouring countries over the past 13 years has helped maintain overall performance during weaker trading periods in individual markets.

The group converted its South African preference-share investment into a 30 percent equity stake in UMS Investment Holdings

during the year. Its

Australian investment, in which Sefalana holds a 30 percent interest, continued to generate positive EBITA and cash.

Cash and cash equivalents increased to P664 million from P528 million, while short-term investments stood at P276 million. Total assets increased to P5.333 billion from P4.752 billion and total equity rose to P3.199 billion.

Net cash generated from operating activities increased to P592 million from P280 million in the previous financial year. Sefalana reported cash and short-term investments of P940 million against loans, borrowings and overdrafts of P375 million, leaving a net cash position of P565 million.

Trade payables exceeded P1 billion at year-end, with Group Finance Director Mohamed Osman saying supplier balances remain an important source of funding for the business. Net assets increased to approximately P3.2 billion.

Sefalana opened 12 stores during the financial year after honouring commitments previously made to landlords. The group opened another four stores in Botswana after year-end and expects to open five stores in Namibia over the next 12 months.

Earnings per share declined to 93 thebe from 169 thebe. The company's share price increased by approximately 7 percent during the financial year from P14.99 to P16, while total shareholder return, including dividends, was approximately 8.2 percent. The board declared a final dividend of 20 thebe per share.

BoFiNet's 1Tbps Upgrade Faces Demand And Affordability Test

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Its Digital Delta Data Centre in Gaborone received Tier III Certification of Constructed Facility from the Uptime Institute in October 2025. The certification means critical infrastructure can undergo planned maintenance without

disrupting computer-room power or cooling.

Designed to accommodate up to 400 racks, the facility supports BoFiNet's plans to provide cloud and related services to Botswana and regional customers.

At its latest annual general meeting, BoFiNet described Digital Delta as an important part of its revenue diversification

strategy. It reported P376 million in revenue and 99.7% service availability across its national fibre backbone.

The additional international bandwidth, data centre and domestic fibre network strengthen BoFiNet's ability to support data-intensive services. Their commercial value will depend on how much

customers use them and what they pay.

Disclosure of utilisation, committed capacity, costs per Gbps and wholesale tariff changes would clarify the upgrade's immediate economic impact. Until then, the expansion confirms greater capacity, while cheaper connectivity remains dependent on demand, competition and how savings reach consumers.

BITC's P30bn Investment Push Puts Diversification to the Test

The Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) is raising the stakes on investment attraction, setting a target of P30 billion in facilitated investment by 2029/30 as Botswana looks to generate new sources of growth, exports and employment.

RIGHT ►

The Target Forms Part Of BITC's 2025-2030 Strategy.

TSAONE SEGAETSHO

The target forms part of BITC's 2025–2030 strategy unveiled recently, which places investment attraction, export growth, job creation and economic diversification at the centre of the organisation's next five years. Presenting the strategy, BITC Executive Director – Business Intelligence Dr Margaret Sengwaketse said the plan was designed to help transform Botswana into a globally competitive economy by attracting sustainable investment, boosting exports and strengthening the country's international brand.

The ambition comes as government seeks to accelerate private-sector-led growth, with BITC saying its strategy aligns with national objectives of attracting at least P100 billion in annual investment and creating up to 500,000 jobs over the next five years.

BITC is entering the new strategy period with a stronger base

than its targets might initially suggest. During FY2025/26, the Centre facilitated P14.882 billion in investment, generated P7.325 billion in export revenue and helped Botswana expand into 14 new export markets.

Presenting BITC's 2025/26 performance update last week, Chief Executive Officer Keletsositse Olebile said the Centre remained committed to driving investment, growing exports, strengthening Botswana's global competitiveness and advancing the national transformation agenda.

BITC suggested that the latest performance provides an important benchmark for the new strategy. BITC also sets hopes on doubling its annual facilitated-investment performance from P14.882 billion to P30 billion by the final year of the strategy, while simultaneously expanding

exports and increasing job creation.

The organisation's targets rise progressively over the five-year period, with facilitated investment moving from P13.6 billion in 2025/26 to P30 billion in 2029/30. Export revenue is targeted at P10 billion by the end of the strategy cycle, while annual job-creation targets rise from 13,600 to 30,000.E

Economists said the bigger question for Botswana's economy is whether this investment will translate into new productive capacity rather than simply higher investment numbers. BITC's strategy places particular emphasis on diversification, with sectors including tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, ICT and healthcare identified as areas of opportunity.

The World Bank argues that Botswana needs to move toward higher

productivity, support productive firms, attract patient private investment and expand markets through better physical and digital connectivity.

The International Monetary Fund similarly says diversification requires private-sector growth, better access to finance, trade liberalisation, regulatory reform, land reform and stronger institutions.

BITC also launched its the ESG initiative, Green Mark along side its 5 year strategy. Green Mark is a national recognition programme aimed at encouraging businesses to adopt sustainable and environmentally responsible practices.

Olebile told journalists during the recent launch that the Green Mark is more than an environmental recognition programme, it is a national commitment to building a more sustainable economy.



Orano's Botswana Bet: Uranium Exploration Enters a New Phase

RIGHT ▶

Orano is preparing to begin exploration in Botswana

TSAONE SEGAETSHO



French uranium company Orano is preparing to begin a three-year exploration programme in Botswana covering 15 prospecting licences in the Ghanzi and Northern Kalahari areas, according to Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) Chief Executive Officer Keletsositse Olebile.

Olebile disclosed the development recently as BITC presented its investment pipeline, identifying Orano's exploration programme among the prospective investments being facilitated by the agency for 2026 and beyond.

The programme puts Orano among the international mining companies expanding their interest in Botswana's mineral resources at a time when the country is seeking to diversify an economy that remains heavily dependent on diamonds.

The financial value of Orano's three-year exploration programme has not been publicly disclosed. Neither BITC nor Orano has publicly stated the total amount the French group

intends to spend on the exploration programme.

The absence of a disclosed investment figure leaves the scale of Orano's immediate financial commitment to Botswana unclear, although the exploration footprint itself is substantial.

Orano has been building its presence in Botswana through Compagnie Française de Mines et Métaux (CFMM), its local subsidiary. Mining registry records show that CFMM was awarded 15 prospecting licences in October 2025, covering uranium and pitchblende exploration areas in the country.

In April 2026, Orano said it had submitted applications for 15 exploration permits in the Ghanzi District covering approximately 15,000 square kilometres. The company said the permits were under review and that the first exploration operations would begin once the necessary authorisations had been granted.

Orano subsequently registered a Botswana subsidiary on April 10, 2026, according to records from Botswana's

Companies and Intellectual Property Authority cited in reporting on the company's expansion.

In August, Botswana also granted three additional uranium and pitchblende prospecting licences to Orano Mining for blocks in the central Kalahari. The three-year licences expire in March 2029 and are separate from the 15 licences previously granted to CFMM.

Orano itself lists Botswana among its uranium exploration programmes restarting from 2026, confirming that the country is part of its current international exploration portfolio.

For Botswana, the exploration programme comes as the government seeks to develop minerals beyond diamonds. The country has no operating uranium mine, making Orano's exploration activity part of a broader effort to develop additional mineral resources.

Orano's Niger setback
The Botswana exploration programme also comes against the backdrop of a major deterioration in Orano's position in Niger.

Orano confirmed in December 2024 that it had lost operational control of Société des Mines de l'Air (SOMAÏR), its uranium mining operation in Niger. Orano held a 63.4% interest in SOMAÏR, with the Nigerien state holding the remaining 36.6% through SOPAMIN.

The dispute subsequently escalated. Niger moved to nationalise SOMAÏR in 2025, while Orano pursued arbitration proceedings concerning its interests and the loss of operational control.

Niger eventually nationalised SOMAÏR in June 2025, ending Orano's operational presence at the uranium mine. Reporting on the dispute said Niger accused Orano and France of exploitation and unfair practices, allegations made in the context of the military-led government's broader effort to increase state control over the country's natural resources.

Orano's Botswana exploration therefore comes as the French uranium group is expanding its exploration activities in a country where uranium mining remains undeveloped, while its longstanding position in Niger has deteriorated.

For now, the Botswana project remains an exploration programme rather than a confirmed uranium mine. Orano says exploration is intended to identify and characterise potential uranium resources, with subsequent development stages involving resource definition, technical and economic studies and environmental assessment before a mining project can be established.

Rolong Business Expo Aims To Unlock Southern Botswana's Economic Potential



NNASARETHA KGAMANYANE

Good Hope will host the inaugural Rolong Business Expo from 23 to 25 October 2026 at Sebothe Motel, bringing together entrepreneurs, investors, government representatives, farmers and young people.

Organisers want the event to serve as a business and economic development platform, helping enterprises find customers, build partnerships and explore investment opportunities.

“Our objective is not just to hold an exhibition. We want to create a platform where businesses can showcase their products, find customers, develop partnerships, access markets and identify investment opportunities,” said organising manager Lawrence Kokole.

“We want the expo to become an annual economic platform for Good Hope and the wider southern part of Botswana.”

The three-day programme will open on 23 October with the Good Hope-Mahikeng Investment Forum, followed by the main exhibition and a cultural night on 24 October. The event will close on 25 October.

Kokole said the idea arose from gaps in business mobilisation, investment promotion, tourism promotion and entrepreneurship activities in southern Botswana.

“There are many businesses and talented entrepreneurs in the region, but sometimes they operate in isolation,”

“We want to create a platform where those businesses meet customers, investors,

financial institutions and larger companies. The expo is about changing the narrative and saying there are businesses, opportunities and investment potential in the south of Botswana, and we need to showcase them.”

Kokole said Good Hope was deliberately chosen because of its strategic location and strong community, agricultural, commercial and cultural base.

“We also want the expo to benefit surrounding villages and districts rather than being limited to Good Hope itself. Our vision is to create a platform that attracts people from across Botswana and eventually international participants,” he said.

The organisers are inviting a broad range of participants, with particular emphasis on local businesses.

“We are targeting entrepreneurs, SMMEs, farmers, investors, financial institutions, government departments, parastatals, universities, young people, women entrepreneurs, retailers and members of the public. Most importantly, we want local businesses to participate because this is their platform,” Kokole said.

Exhibitors will have opportunities to showcase products and services, meet potential customers, network with other businesses and engage prospective investors. Activities will include business-to-business networking, presentations, product demonstrations and discussions on entrepreneurship.

“We want businesses to see the expo not as an expense but as an opportunity to grow their markets and build relationships,” Kokole said.

Organisers are also calling on companies to support the event through sponsorship.

“Sponsorship is an opportunity for companies to associate their brands with economic development and community empowerment. Sponsors will receive visibility before, during and after the expo through branding, media exposure, exhibition opportunities, stakeholder engagement and networking,” he said.

“But beyond advertising, sponsors will be contributing to the development of entrepreneurs and businesses in southern Botswana. We are looking for partners who want to say, we are not only doing business in Botswana, we are investing in Botswana’s economic future.”

A key part of the organisers’ plans is the Rolong Business Expo Entrepreneur Adoption and Mentorship Programme, intended to extend support beyond the three-day event.

Under the initiative, organisers will identify 10 entrepreneurs with promising products or ideas who need support and place them in a structured mentorship programme for 12 months.

Organisers have named ministers Tiroeaone Ntsima and Edwin Dikoloti as guest speakers for the October event, which is expected to attract participants from across the region.

Arts&Lifestyle

ARTS, MUSIC, FOOD, LIFESTYLE

Sunbet Simply Piano Turns Venue Setback Into A Night Of Entertainment

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Sunbet Simply Piano Turns Venue Set-back Into A Night Of Entertainment

What began under a cloud of disappointment following a last-minute venue change ended on a high note as the fourth edition of Sunbet Simply Piano attracted a sizeable crowd for an evening of music and entertainment.

CHRONICLE REPORTER

Organisers had been forced to move the event from Royal Aria in Tlokweng to the Fairgrounds Holdings Open Arena, raising concerns among patrons who had made plans around the original venue.

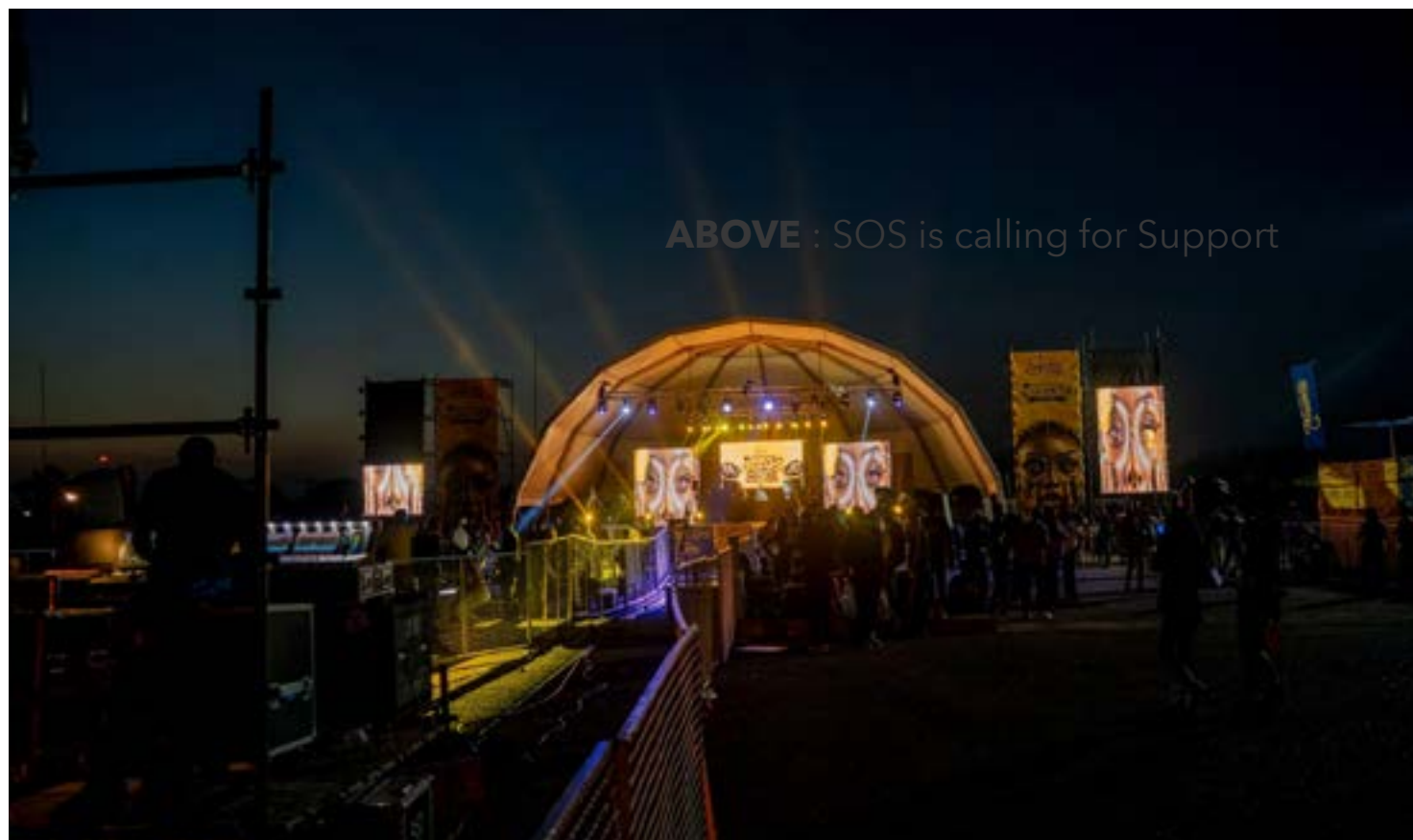
However, the change did little to keep music lovers away. The Friday-night event brought together South African acts including Cassper Nyovest, Focalistic and Xduppy, alongside Botswana's FME DJs and Syke.

Despite the uncertainty before the show, the performers managed to keep the crowd entertained as the night gradually developed into a celebration of music.

The venue change had frustrated some patrons, while others questioned whether the organisers would deliver the experience that had initially been promised. As performances got under way, however, much of the disappointment appeared to give way to excitement.

Cassper Nyovest and Focalistic added star power to the event, while Xduppy introduced his sound to the Botswana audience. Local DJs FME and Syke complemented the visiting artists, giving the show a mix of South African and Botswana entertainment.

The event was not without challenges. Some patrons complained about sound quality at



ABOVE : SOS is calling for Support



various points during the night, while others raised concerns about delays and the failure to follow the advertised performance times.

Nevertheless, the complaints did little to overshadow the general atmosphere, as patrons continued to dance, socialise and enjoy the performances.

By the end of the night, what could have been remembered mainly for the last-minute venue change had become an enjoyable evening for many of those in attendance.

The event showed how live entertainment can overcome unexpected setbacks, with the performances and

turnout helping to turn an uncertain beginning into a night of music and fun.

For patrons who attended despite the initial concerns, the event ultimately delivered what they had come for: music, entertainment and performances from some of the region's notable artists.

Community Spirit Shines As 60-4-60 Challenge Celebrates Botswana At 60



NNASARETHA KGAMANYANE

The spirit of compassion and community was celebrated in Oodi on Saturday as the 2026 60-4-60 Challenge concluded with a call to invest in Botswana's future as the country marks 60 years of independence.

Delivering her Founder's Closing Address, Dignity Foundation founder Mokgadi Nteta said the event was about more than riding, running and walking.

"Today, we did much more than ride, run and walk. Today, we chose to show up for one another. We chose to invest in the future of our children. We chose community," Nteta said.

Held under the theme Botswana At 60, the challenge asked participants how the nation could honour its past while investing in its

future.

Nteta said participants answered that question through every kilometre travelled, volunteer shift, sponsorship, donation and act of kindness.

Whether completing 80 kilometres, 10 kilometres or five kilometres, every participant was celebrated.

"Today was never about who finished first. Today was never about competition. It was always about compassion. It was about choosing to start. And because you started, children will have opportunities they may never otherwise have had," she said.

This year's challenge supported 80 vulnerable children from Bana ba Letsatsi. Through the generosity of participants, sponsors and the wider community, the children received clothing,

stationery and toiletries.

Nteta said the support was intended to restore dignity and create opportunities.

"Money changes circumstances. People change lives," she said, drawing a distinction that defines the Foundation's work.

"At Dignity Foundation, we believe there is a difference between charity and dignity. Charity meets today's need. Dignity seeks tomorrow's justice."

She said the Foundation was not seeking to create a generation of grateful children, but confident adults who knew they had been seen, valued and given an opportunity to flourish.

"My dream is that one day one of these children will stand where I am standing and say: Someone believed in me. Today, I have come back to believe in someone else. That is what paying it forward looks like. That is the future we are building," Nteta said.

She thanked the cyclists who kept her motivated,

the volunteers who arrived before sunrise and stayed until after the event, sponsors and partners who supported the initiative, and the Mission Hub team for months of planning and problem-solving.

Addressing Bana ba Letsatsi, Nteta said the children were more than beneficiaries.

"The children you serve are not simply beneficiaries. They are young people with dreams, gifts and limitless potential. Today was about them. And it will continue to be about them long after this event has ended," she said.

In closing, she urged participants to view the event as the beginning of another year of hope rather than its conclusion.

"Because restoring dignity is not something we do once a year. It is a choice we make every day. One kilometre. One child. One act of dignity at a time," she said.

The next edition of the 60-4-60 Challenge will be held on 21 August 2027.

Extended Trading Hours Open Independence Business Window for Bars and Nightclubs

RIGHT ►

Bars and Nightclubs are to trade longer hours



TSAONE SEGAETSHO

Botswana's bars and nightclubs will be allowed to trade into the early hours during the country's 60th Independence celebrations, opening an extended six-day business window for the liquor, entertainment and hospitality industries.

Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship Tiroeaone Ntsima has directed that bars be permitted to operate from 8am until 6am, while nightclubs will trade from 3pm until 6am under temporary trading arrangements running from September 29 to October 4, 2026.

The extended hours coincide with Botswana's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, with September 30 marking 60 years since the country gained independence in 1966. Botswana Day falls on Wednesday, September 30 this year, followed by another public holiday on Thursday, October 1.

The decision potentially gives liquor traders and entertainment businesses



▲ Ntsima

one of their biggest trading periods of the year, particularly as the anniversary is being accompanied by a wider programme of public celebrations.

Government has planned the country's first Independence Day carnival in Gaborone, with festivities beginning early in the morning and culminating at the Main Mall. A craft market and food court are also expected to create trading opportunities for local businesses.

The official celebrations will resume at 6pm with a music festival scheduled to continue until 6am, according to the Botswana Press Agency. Government officials have said the celebrations are intended not only to

mark the anniversary but also to create economic opportunities for artists, caterers and other entrepreneurs.

The temporary extension of liquor trading hours comes as the government continues experimenting with longer operating hours as part of its efforts to stimulate economic activity.

Similar temporary arrangements have previously produced increased expectations of sales among liquor businesses. During the December 2025 festive-season extension, bar employees and patrons interviewed by the Botswana Press Agency said business was expected to increase as outlets were allowed to remain open until 6am.

However, the economic impact of longer liquor trading hours has also been disputed within the entertainment industry.

Earlier this year, the Botswana Entertainment Promoters Association challenged claims that an Easter extended-hours pilot had been economically successful, arguing that publicly available data

had not demonstrated the claimed benefits. The Botswana Night Clubs and Bar Association and other industry players had also raised concerns over consultation around proposals for longer trading hours.

The Independence extension will therefore provide another trading period in which the impact of longer operating hours on bars, nightclubs and the wider entertainment economy can be observed.

Beyond liquor outlets, increased late-night activity could generate additional demand for transport, security, food services and entertainment during the celebrations.

The Diamond Jubilee is being celebrated under the theme "Building Resilience, Driving Prosperity." Unlike the traditional stadium-centred Independence programme, this year's celebrations include activities centred around the Main Mall and community events.

The extended trading arrangement ends on October 4, after which the special Independence-period hours cease to apply.

Kasane Runway Comes Alive As Fashion Meets Heritage For Botswana At 60

NNASARETHA KGAMANYANE

Kasane is set to become more than a gateway to wildlife this October. From 31 October to 1 November 2026, the Chobe River town will host the Chobe Cultural Fashion & Heritage Exchange 2026 (CCFHE) a double celebration with the Miss Chobe Tourism Botswana 2026 Finale at Cresta Mowana.

Themed "Couture of Cultures – Celebrating Botswana's Cultural Diversity" under Botswana at 60, the exchange is positioning fashion as a language of history, identity and future.

For Miss Chobe Tourism Director Itumeleng Mabutha, the theme is deliberate.

"For us, 'Couture of Cultures' is about celebrating who we are as Botswana while recognising the diversity that exists within our country and our wider region," says Mabutha. "Fashion gives us a very powerful way of doing that because clothing can communicate identity, history, creativity and belonging."

As Botswana marks its Diamond Jubilee, Mabutha says CCFHE wants to prove that heritage is not stuck in the past.

"Heritage is not something that belongs only in the past. It can continue to inspire designers, young people and new forms of creative expression.

RIGHT ►

Miss Chobe Tourism Director Itumeleng Mabutha



The diamond jubilee celebration gives us an opportunity to honour our heritage while also looking towards the future of Botswana's creative and cultural industries."

Guests at Cresta Mowana can expect more than glamour. The runway will be fused with pageantry to create one storytelling stage.

"CCFHE and Miss Chobe Tourism Botswana complement each other because both platforms are about storytelling and representation,"

"The fashion showcase gives designers a platform to tell stories through clothing, while the pageant provides young women with a platform to demonstrate confidence, leadership, cultural knowledge and tourism advocacy."

Behind the lights,

however, is a bigger purpose.

"The runway is the visible part of CCFHE, but it is not the entire purpose. At its core, CCFHE is about creating a platform for cultural heritage, creative expression, economic opportunity and intercultural exchange," says Mabutha.

This year, that purpose comes to life through a curated lineup of 13 designers representing Botswana and the wider KAZA region. The confirmed designers are: Pinkverl Designs from Kazungula, Yours-be Dub from Lesoma, AG Atelier Studio from Francistown, Chico Fashions from Zimbabwe, MM HR Consultant from Zambia, November Pearl from Gaborone, Bwinos Fashion from Mozambique, Designer Handsen from Zambia, Vetalier Creations from Maun, Dudes and Diva Couture from Mogoditshane, Inbechuana Tailors from Palapye, Keitumetse Bangana from Pandamatenga, and

Tebarnacle Boutique and Designers from Kanye.

"We do not want to bring national or regional designers into Chobe while the creative talent within Chobe remains invisible," Mabutha says. "Established creatives can bring experience, visibility and networks, while emerging local talent brings fresh perspectives."

That is why this year's call to the public is not just "come and watch" but "A re segeng attire tseo re reke" — let's admire and buy these attires. Public voting for best designer and direct sales are central to the event.

"We do not only want people to admire local creativity, we want them to participate in the creative economy," Mabutha says. "When someone buys a locally designed garment, they are supporting a chain of people: the designer, artisans, tailors, textile suppliers, models and photographers."

Regional representation

To Page 38



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COSBOTS Looks To Unlock More Royalties

BOIKANYO MATHONSI

A song played in a hotel or broadcast on radio can earn royalties for its rights holders. The challenge for copyright societies is identifying users, setting licence fees and collecting the money owed.

That challenge was the focus of a CISAC international workshop held in Gaborone from 21 to 24 September, bringing together collective management organisations from across Africa to compare licensing and royalty collection practices.

COSBOTS chairperson Bakalanga Malikongwa told The Monday Chronicle that licensing determines how users are charged and how much can ultimately be collected for creators.

"Societies license users through different arrangements, including

blanket licences, and they are responsible for collecting royalties and distributing them to rights holders," she said.

Malikongwa said the workshop gave societies a chance to share their experiences and find practical ways to improve collections.

CISAC Regional Director Samuel Sangwa said one of the hardest questions was how to set fees for different users of copyrighted work.

"How much should a hotel pay to use copyrighted work? What about a television station, a national broadcaster, a radio station, an online radio station or a streaming platform?"

Sangwa said there could be no single approach for every country. Societies with established systems could share what they had learnt with those still developing theirs.

"It is about societies coming together and sharing what works for them. Some societies are more advanced than others, so those with more experience can share their knowledge with societies that are still developing," he said.

For Malikongwa, the measure of the workshop's value will be whether those lessons lead to changes at COSBOTS.

"What we gain from this workshop must be put into practice. The lessons shared here should help us improve how we work and strengthen the support we give to rights holders," she said.

From Page 36

Kasane Runway Comes Alive As Fashion Meets Heritage For Botswana At 60

matters. KAZA, which connects Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Angola through conservation, is also a cultural corridor.

"Bringing creative practitioners together creates opportunities for cultural dialogue and collaboration. It can also encourage visitors to see Southern Africa as a connected destination," Mabutha notes.

Mabutha clarifies that while early promotions mentioned ministries, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Ministry of Sport and Arts are not yet formally confirmed partners, though engagement continues. Current support comes from Chobe District Council, Cresta Mowana, Chobe Safari Lodge, Ambire Training Services and other stakeholders.

Crucially, CCFHE is designed not to end when the lights go off. Mabutha envisions a 12-month platform with market linkages, exhibitions, mentorship and collaborative collections.

"What we want the public to understand is that CCFHE is bigger than a fashion show," she says.

"We want to create a platform where a young designer from Chobe can stand alongside a designer from another part of the KAZA region and say, 'My culture and my creativity have value.'"



Kweneng Creatives Club: A New Hope For Local Artists

RIGHT ►

Kweneng Artists were tired of being taken for granted

BOTLHE MHALADI



Artists across Kweneng may have found an answer to their long-standing calls for support through the Kweneng Creatives Club, an association based in Molepolole that seeks to unite creatives and turn their talents into sustainable sources of income.

Patrick Seroojane, the club's secretary, said the initiative was formed because artists were often taken for granted.

"Artists usually invest their time and money into their art, but end up with nothing because they are often booked for free, without any form of compensation, especially monetary compensation," Seroojane said in an interview with *The Monday Chronicle*.

He said this made it difficult for artists to earn a modest living, as some were forced to volunteer simply to build their reputations.

Seroojane also criticised the lack of support from

government institutions and other stakeholders, saying this often demoralised artists and affected their commitment to their craft.

The idea for the club emerged from a call by Kweneng Council chairman Ontefetse Rankhibidu, who invited different community groups, including pastors and traditional doctors, to develop a roadmap for improving the region and their respective fields.

Seroojane said the initiative was born when creatives were invited to one of the meetings earlier this year.

The Kweneng Creatives Club is still in its early stages and has not yet been fully registered with the Registrar of Companies. Seroojane said the club's name had been approved and that members were working on its constitution and other legal requirements.

"Currently, we do not have a physical place of

operation. We are mobile, but once everything falls into place, we are hopeful for a better future," he said.

The club aims to unite and support local creatives, create economic opportunities for its members and preserve cultural heritage for future generations.

It is divided into three categories: performing arts, visual arts and literary arts.

Performing arts include theatre, music, beauty contests and dance, while visual arts include carpentry, videography and painting. Literary arts include authors, poets, composers and film writers.

"As we continue to grow, we hope to add other categories such as martial arts and culinary arts. For now, we work with these categories, but we are not limited to them,"

He said the club was open to partnerships, affiliations and sponsorships to help it grow.

"We hope to spread to other parts of Kweneng in the future and not only Molepolole. Loologane and Sojwe are some of the remote areas we hope to reach," he said.

The club is currently facing several challenges, including limited financial resources, a small membership and a lack of commitment from some members.

Seroojane said plans were under way to introduce the club to the wider community through exhibitions and other activities once it became fully operational.

"We hope to have an exhibition as a way of making ourselves known, but for now we are limited, even in terms of experienced personnel, because we are working on a voluntary basis," he said.

He said the club welcomed new members from all creative fields and hoped to grow its membership in the future.

Seroojane said the club's broader aim was to see creatives improve their lives through their work, receive recognition for their talents and earn a steady income from their skills and dedication.

Safari Drip To Celebrate Maun's Tourism Identity

BOTLHE MHALADI

MAUN - Safari Drip, a new lifestyle event scheduled for 24 October 2026, will bring together fashion, tourism, business and community in a celebration of Maun's identity as Botswana's tourism capital.

The family-friendly event will give residents and visitors an opportunity to socialise, network and support local businesses while enjoying a safari-themed experience.

Safari fashion will be central to the event, with attendees encouraged to embrace safari-inspired clothing and accessories, including safari shirts, khaki outfits, dresses, boots, shorts and sunglasses.

Organiser Joseph Ntshonyane said the event was intended to celebrate not only Maun's tourism attractions, but also the people, businesses and lifestyle that give the town its character.

"Maun is known globally as a gateway to some of Botswana's most iconic tourism destinations, but we also want to celebrate the people, businesses and lifestyle that make Maun what it is," Ntshonyane said.

Although music



will form part of the programme, Ntshonyane said Safari Drip was not a conventional music festival.

"Music will provide the atmosphere for a relaxed day where people can socialise, network, explore businesses and enjoy the safari-themed environment,"

The event will provide exhibition space for businesses, particularly those operating in the tourism sector, to showcase

their products and services and engage directly with potential customers.

Local entrepreneurs will also have an opportunity to promote their businesses to visitors from Maun and other parts of the country.

Okavango FM is expected to broadcast the event live, allowing exhibitors to be interviewed and gain radio exposure. Spectators will also have an opportunity to share their views live on air.

Ntshonyane said the partnership reflected a broader effort to use local platforms to promote businesses, tourism and community initiatives.

"Safari Drip is ultimately about positioning Maun not only as a gateway to the Okavango Delta, but as a destination with its own

vibrant identity, people, businesses, fashion and lifestyle," he said.

Although this will be the inaugural event, organisers hope to attract more sponsors and grow Safari Drip into an annual event that draws visitors from outside Botswana.

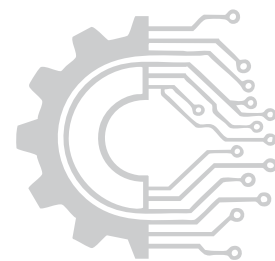
Members of the public are encouraged to attend dressed in their best safari-inspired outfits.

The event will seek to present Maun in a different light — where tourism meets fashion, business meets community, and the safari lifestyle becomes the centre of the experience.

****Safari Drip — celebrating Maun, one safari look at a time.****

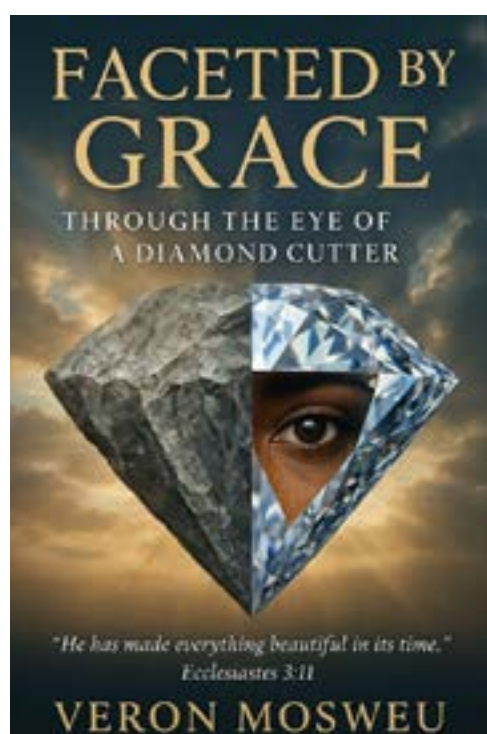


THE MONDAY **Chronicle** **Review**



Ideas, Stories & Voices worth Reading

Faceted By Grace Brings Diamonds Faith And Life Together



CHRONICLE REPORTER

Veron Mosweu's forthcoming memoir, *Faceted By Grace* (Through The Eyes Of A Diamond Cutter), brings together three subjects that have shaped her life: diamonds, faith and personal experience.

The 244-page book, published and edited by Life Changing Publishers, is due to be officially launched on 9 October 2026.

Speaking to The Monday Chronicle, Mosweu said the book was inspired by the realisation that the three parts of her life were connected.

"What motivated me to write *Faceted By Grace* was the realisation that I had three worlds that mean so much to me: diamonds, my faith and my experience of life, and I wanted to bring them together in one

book," she said.

The Lobatse-born author said her faith and belief in God had guided her through the challenges, disappointments, lessons, healing and growth that shaped her life.

Mosweu said she eventually understood that these were not separate stories, but different parts of the same journey.

"They were all telling me the same thing: life is a process. This gave me the motivation and inspiration to become a writer," she said.

Although the memoir draws on her experiences, Mosweu said she did not want the book to focus only on her life. She included the stories and experiences of other people to make its message broader and more relatable.

"I didn't want to make my

life the focus of the book. I wanted the message to be bigger than me, because everybody is going through something. That is why I have included the stories and experiences of others," she said.

Mosweu wants readers to understand that their journeys have value, even when they do not yet understand where those journeys are taking them. She said the stories were not shared to invite pity, but to remind readers that difficult experiences do not diminish their worth.

Instead, she believes those experiences can become part of the process through which purpose and legacy are revealed.

As a trained diamond cutter and fine jewellery specialist, Mosweu said her professional experience had allowed

her to appreciate diamonds beyond their beauty.

"I have come to understand their formation, their journey, their transformation and the legacy they can carry," she said.

She said her experience in the diamond and jewellery industry had influenced the book's central idea: that diamonds, like people, are shaped by a process of transformation.

Mosweu wants readers to learn how diamonds are formed, what makes them unique, how they are transformed and why they have become symbols of value, beauty and legacy.

She also wants readers to look beyond the sparkle and appreciate the journey from the earth to the finished stone.

"Most importantly, I want readers to realise that they are not defined by what they have been through. There is brilliance, purpose and legacy within them waiting to be revealed," she said.

"If they finish reading this book with a deeper knowledge of diamonds, a greater understanding of their own journey, and more grace, hope and purpose in their hearts, then I will have accomplished what I hoped to do."

Mosweu is a trained diamond cutter and jewellery and gemstone specialist with international experience in the luxury jewellery industry.

Faceted By Grace (Through The Eyes Of A Diamond Cutter) is available at Bala Books in Rail Park and can also be ordered on +267 754 64431.

Nthaga Takes Libya Lessons Into Crucial Tunisia Test

CHRONICLE REPORTER

Botswana interim coach Thaloba Nthaga believes the Zebras' 2-2 draw with Libya offered both encouragement and a timely warning ahead of Monday's 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Tunisia.

The Zebras appeared on course for a major away victory after Tumisang Orebonye struck twice to give Botswana a 2-0 lead, only for Libya to stage a late comeback. Maruwan Alhibeeshi pulled one back in the 87th minute before Ezoo El Mariamy converted a stoppage-time penalty to secure a point.

Reflecting on the performance, Nthaga highlighted Botswana's defensive organisation and ability to exploit Libya's high defensive line as positives to take into the Tunisia encounter.

"We were very organised defensively. In terms of our offensive display, we took our chances when they came because we could see that we gave them problems with a high line. That is how we got our two goals," Nthaga said in his post-match assessment.

However, the interim coach acknowledged that Botswana's approach after the break invited pressure and allowed Libya back into the contest.

"In the second half, we defended too deep and gave them too much space in front of our penalty box. That's what gave us problems. As a result, it was difficult for us to come out with the ball. If you



stay deeper, ultimately something gives."

Botswana will therefore need to maintain their defensive discipline against Tunisia without retreating so far that the opposition can enjoy sustained possession around the penalty area.

Nthaga nevertheless believes the Libya performance gives his side something to build on.

"Lots of positives from the Libya game, offensive play and defensive organisation," he said, while stressing the need to improve the team's organisation when defending deep.

Those lessons could prove crucial against a Tunisia side that also opened its Group H campaign with a draw, surrendering an early lead to settle for a 1-1 result against Uganda in Radès.

With Uganda already guaranteed a place at AFCON 2027 as one of the

tournament's three co-hosts, alongside Kenya and Tanzania, only one additional team from Group H will qualify. That adds significance to Botswana's meetings with Tunisia and Libya.

The Zebras face Tunisia on Monday, 28 September, at the Hammadi Agrebi Stadium in Radès. Kick-off is scheduled for 8pm Tunisian time, or 9pm in Botswana.

Nthaga's side will aim to reproduce the attacking efficiency that brought two goals in Libya while avoiding the deep defensive retreat that cost them victory.

HUSA) after mutually terminating his contract with Wydad Athletic Club according to reports in Morocco.

HUSA becomes his fourth Moroccan club, following spells with OC Khouribga, AS FAR Rabat and Wydad. His latest move suggests there is still an appetite for

LEFT ◀

Nthaga's side will aim to reproduce the attacking efficiency that brought two goals in Libya

the Zebras forward in the Botola Pro, despite limited opportunities during his stint in Casablanca.

According to world renowned statistics website Transfermarkt, Orebonye has scored 14 goals in 71 Moroccan top-flight appearances. That return comprises seven goals in 39 league outings for Khouribga, seven in 28 for AS FAR and four goalless appearances for Wydad. These figures exclude domestic cup matches and second-division football.

His Wydad league appearances amounted to just 34 minutes, highlighting how little playing time he received. The HUSA deal offers an opportunity to trade a peripheral role for regular football and turn a fresh start into a stronger scoring return.

Orebonye also brings continental title-winning experience. He helped Algeria's USM Alger lift the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup, becoming the first Botswana player to win the competition in June 2023.

He added the CAF Super Cup that September, with USM Alger beating Egyptian giants Al Ahly 1-0 to secure another continental crown. His major African honours were therefore earned in Algeria, rather than Morocco.

Ntunga Stands Tall After Osaka Defeat



PIC: BOTSWANA TENNIS
ASSOCIATION

CHRONICLE REPORTER

Botswana's Ntungamili Raguin fell one win short of another singles title in Japan after losing 6-4, 6-1 to home player Koki Nara in the J500 Osaka final on Sunday.

The 17-year-old's runner-up finish followed his singles and doubles triumphs at J200 Miki a week earlier, completing two productive weeks on the international junior circuit.

Raguin, seeded sixth, had beaten three seeded opponents to reach the Osaka final. However, eighth seed Nara ended his title bid in straight sets, taking the opening set

before conceding just one game in the second.

The Motswana's route to the final included a 6-0, 6-3 victory over Japan's tenth seed Takahiro Kawaguchi in the third round.

He then knocked out top seed Kai Thompson of Hong Kong in the quarter-finals, winning 6-1, 5-7, 6-1. After losing the second set, Raguin responded strongly in the decider to secure his place in the last four.

Another commanding performance followed in the semi-finals, where he defeated Japan's fourth seed Hyu Kawanishi 6-0, 6-3 to book his meeting with Nara.

Raguin also reached

the Osaka doubles semi-finals alongside American Navneet Raghuram. The third-seeded pair lost 6-4, 6-2 to Japan's Hyu Kawanishi and Kanta Watanabe.

His Osaka run built on a successful campaign in Miki, where he recovered from a set down to defeat Australian top seed Mustafa Ege Sik 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the singles final.

In doubles, Raguin partnered Pakistan's Mikaeel Ali Baig to beat top seeds Sik and Taiki Takizawa 7-5, 6-2 for the title. The pair also eliminated the second and third seeds during their

run.

Across the two tournaments, Raguin reached successive singles finals, won a doubles title and made another doubles semi-final, sustaining his challenge deep into both draws.

Speaking to the media after the Miki victories, Botswana Tennis Association president Oaitse Thipe said the results demonstrated Raguin's resilience and commitment.

Thipe said the association's focus was on helping the youngster maintain his momentum as he began his transition towards the professional ranks.

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The Letsholonyane Era Begins At Magosi

CHRONICLE REPORTER

Mochudi Centre Chiefs have placed their ambitions in the hands of former Bafana Bafana midfielder Reneilwe “Yeye” Letsholonyane, whose reign is expected to begin with a showdown against arch-rivals Township Rollers.

Letsholonyane has been unveiled as Magosi’s new head coach following the departure of Spaniard Miguel Corral Torreira, who was dismissed just three matches into the 2026/27 FNB Premiership campaign. Chiefs had collected four points from a win, a draw and a defeat when the club opted for a change in technical leadership.

His first assignment is expected to be against Rollers on 10 October, immediately introducing the South African to the pressure and expectations surrounding one of Botswana football’s fiercest rivalries.

The clash will give Magosi supporters an early glimpse of the style Letsholonyane intends to introduce as Chiefs seek to re-establish themselves among the dominant forces in local football.

The 44-year-old arrives with considerable playing experience. “Yeye” became one of South Africa’s most recognisable midfielders, earning 57 Bafana Bafana caps and representing his country at both the FIFA World Cup and Africa Cup of Nations.

His coaching career has taken him through Pimville Young Stars and AmaZulu before crossing into Botswana with Matebele FC. At Matebele, he helped a youthful side retain its FNB Premiership status and earned a Coach of the Season nomination.

He later joined Zimbabwean giants FC Platinum as an assistant to Thabo Senong before leaving to take up the Chiefs job.

Letsholonyane has also gained international coaching experience within the South African Under-20 and Bafana Bafana CHAN setups and holds a CAF A licence.

For Chiefs, however, that experience will need to translate into results. Magosi are four-time Botswana champions but have endured a lengthy wait for another league crown, having last won the title in the 2014/15 season.



African Hero Revives Top 8



▲ **ABOVE:** African Hero will sponsor the Top 8 for P4 Million

BOIKANYO MATHONSI

After six years off the football calendar, the Top 8 competition is set to return in October under African Hero sponsorship, with the tournament running until December and the champions set to pocket P1.5 million.

Previously sponsored by Mascom, the competition last took place in the 2019/20 season, when Orapa United beat Township Rollers on penalties in the final in March 2020. Eight Premier League clubs will compete for the revived trophy and a share of the P4 million prize purse.

African Hero chief executive officer Akash Singh says the competition will give clubs another opportunity to compete for major silverware and players a bigger stage to showcase their talent.

"We want to give the Premier League teams another big trophy to play for and a stage for players to showcase their talents," Singh says.

The runners-up will receive P750,000, while the

losing semi-finalists will each collect P200,000.

Quarter-finalists will receive P100,000 each, while the Player of the Tournament will earn P50,000 and the Coach of the Tournament P30,000.

The quarter-finals will be played over a single leg, with the four lower-ranked qualifiers travelling to face last season's top four sides on their home grounds.

Botswana Football League (BFL) head of communications Prince

Tshoswane says the format rewards teams for finishing in the top four by giving them home advantage in the opening round.

"It gives teams an incentive to finish in the top four because they will have home advantage," Tshoswane says.

The quarter-final draw will see Jwaneng Galaxy host Township Rollers, while Sua Flamingoes welcome Orapa United.

Mochudi Centre Chiefs will host Morupule Wanderers, with Gaborone United

taking on Nico United at home to complete the opening round.

Singh says African Hero wants to build on the competition's history and create a tournament that supporters and players will value.

"Top 8 has a proud history in Botswana, and its return is a chance to write a new chapter. We want this to be something that fans will talk about, something that players want to win," Singh says.





African Hero Revives Top 8

