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500,000-Job Push

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Farmers On The Brink As BAMB Withholds P100 Million

Botswana's grain farmers are facing a deepening cash-flow crisis, with the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB) owing producers approximately P100 million as the September 30 loan repayment deadline approaches.

Full Story On Page 2



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Farmers On The Brink As BAMB Withholds P100 Million

Botswana's grain farmers are facing a deepening cash-flow crisis, with the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB) owing producers approximately P100 million as the September 30 loan repayment deadline approaches.

RIGHT ►

Farmers borrow heavily to finance production

PIC: BGPA



INNOCENT SELATLHWA

The Botswana Grain Producers Association (BGPA) and the Pandamatenga Commercial Farmers Association (PCFA) say the unpaid money threatens farmers' ability to settle production loans, pay suppliers and prepare for the 2026/2027 planting season.

In a statement, the farmers' associations said they appreciated the efforts of BAMB's new leadership to stabilise an institution that had inherited serious financial and operational problems.

However, they said stabilisation had not yet translated into the liquidity required to pay farmers.

"The situation now calls for courageous leadership and bold decisions to properly recapitalise BAMB and rebuild its business model for long-term financial sustainability," the associations said.

They warned that investor confidence in agriculture had collapsed.

"Investor confidence

is ZERO," they said, adding that farmers were effectively "paying to farm, not being paid to farm".

Farmers borrow heavily to finance production, with interest rates exceeding 20 percent in some cases. They also employ seasonal workers, purchase inputs and carry the risk of drought, floods, falling prices and delayed payments.

In Pandamatenga alone, five farms are currently on the market. The associations said this was the highest number of farms being offered for sale in the area at any one time in the past 14 years.

The crisis has been worsened by repeated delays in paying farmers for grain already delivered to BAMB.

Farmers began delivering their produce in April, but some have now exceeded the contractual 30-day payment period by up to four months.

The associations said BAMB's delayed payments were forcing farmers to continue accumulating

interest on loans used to produce the grain.

The National Development Bank has extended the repayment deadline to the end of October, but farmers have been advised that the extension will attract an additional one percentage point in interest.

Farmers had asked whether interest would stop once grain was delivered to BAMB under the loan cession arrangements. They say they were told that delivery did not amount to payment and that interest would continue until the loan was fully settled.

The associations said one Pandamatenga farmer had paid approximately P3.8 million in interest linked to BAMB's late payments.

The problem is not new. During the 2024/2025 season, Pandamatenga farmers delivered more than 50,000 tonnes of sorghum, as well as thousands of tonnes of cowpeas and maize.

BAMB reportedly took about eight months to

secure sufficient funding to pay them. By December 2025, commercial farmers had received only 74 percent of the money owed to them, with the remaining 26 percent paid in April 2026.

The delays affected suppliers, wages, bank charges, loan repayments and the ability of farmers to finance the next season.

The associations fear the same cycle could now prevent farmers from accessing 2026/2027 seasonal input loans, because outstanding loans must first be settled.

They are calling for immediate government intervention, including the recapitalisation of BAMB, relief from interest arising from delayed payments and certainty that new seasonal loans will be released on time.

The associations said farmers remained committed to BAMB, but warned that the grain sector could not survive without timely payment and decisive government action.

Farmers Warn Botswana Is Planting Blind

RIGHT ►

PandaFarmers are demanding an urgent national crop plan

PIC: MOLA

INNOCENT SELATLHWA

Botswana's grain farmers say they are being asked to enter the 2026/2027 production season without knowing what to plant, what price they will receive or whether there will be a market for their crops.

The Botswana Grain Producers Association (BGPA) and the Pandamatenga Commercial Farmers Association (PCFA) are demanding an urgent national crop plan to guide production, financing, procurement and marketing before farmers commit more money to the new season.

The associations say farmers need reliable information before planting, rather than discovering after harvest that there is no confirmed buyer or sufficient funding to pay them.

During meetings held in Pandamatenga in July, farmers, BAMB, the Office of the President and the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture agreed that a national crop plan should be developed and

that the market should be coordinated between farmers, BAMB and millers.

However, farmers are still waiting for progress on the plan.

They say the failure to coordinate the entire value chain has left producers exposed to rising input costs, uncertain prices and delayed payments.

The 2025/2026 sorghum price illustrates the problem.

In November 2025, BAMB announced a producer price of P3,850 per tonne. Farmers did not agree to the price, saying it was not viable in view of production costs and the prevailing market price of approximately P4,250 per tonne.

The BGPA formally requested negotiations in January 2026. The PCFA renewed the request in May, by which time farmers had already started delivering sorghum to BAMB silos.

The price was only revised on July 6, when BAMB approved an increase to P4,300 per tonne.

This meant farmers planted, borrowed money, harvested and started delivering their crops while the producer price remained unresolved.

The farmers say such uncertainty makes it impossible to plan production responsibly. They want producer prices concluded before planting and financing decisions are made.

They also want BAMB to secure forward off-take agreements with millers and other buyers before grain arrives at its silos. The associations say BAMB was criticised last season for failing to secure sufficient markets in advance and has still not sold all the produce delivered by farmers.

The problem is made more serious by the conditions attached to subsidised seasonal loans.

Under the National Development Bank's arrangements, farmers receiving subsidised loans are required to sell

their produce exclusively to BAMB. Loan agreements also provide for a cession involving the bank, the farmer and BAMB.

Farmers therefore carry the production risk while depending heavily on one institution to buy and pay for their crops.

The associations are also demanding clarity on the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme, which is intended to assist farmers affected by drought, floods, frost and hailstorms.

They say the transition to a new model has been confusing, with farmers lacking clear guidelines, assessment outcomes and feedback.

The uncertainty is particularly concerning in Pandamatenga, where severe flooding at the beginning of the 2025/2026 season caused crop and input losses. Some farmers had to replant using borrowed money and personal savings.

The associations say Botswana cannot build a private-sector-led, export-driven agricultural sector while farmers face borrowing costs above 20 percent, falling grain prices and limited insurance protection.

They want government to finalise a national crop plan, improve market coordination, conclude prices on time and provide clear protection against production losses.

Without urgent action, they warn, food security and the survival of the country's grain farmers will remain at risk.



Inside Botswana's AfDB Loan For 500,000-Job Push

The Ministry of Finance is negotiating a loan with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to fund a major jobs and enterprise programme, but the amount Botswana could borrow remains undisclosed.

TSAONE SEGAETSHO

Documents from the AfDB seen by *The Monday Chronicle* show that government is seeking financing for the Botswana Skills, Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Acceleration for Job Creation in Priority Sectors Project.

The proposed programme is expected to support Botswana's efforts to tackle youth unemployment, improve skills development and stimulate enterprise growth in priority sectors of the economy.

While preparations for the project are already underway, the size of the proposed loan has not been made public.

In July 2026, the AfDB advertised two major consultancy assignments linked to preparations for implementation of the project.

According to documents seen by this publication, the financing remains subject to approval by the AfDB and the Botswana Government, including Parliament.

The documents indicate that preparations around the proposed financing were underway by April this year, with negotiations beginning in May 2026.

"The Bank will provide financing, implementation support and monitoring for the Project," reads part of the documentation seen by this publication.

The proposed financing comes as Botswana seeks to create more than

500,000 jobs by 2030 under National Development Plan 12, while pursuing higher economic growth and increased private-sector participation.

The AfDB says Botswana is entering a difficult economic transition characterised by declining diamond revenues, pressure on public finances and an urgent need to diversify the economy.

"Botswana is entering a critical structural transition period marked by declining diamond revenues, fiscal pressures, and the urgent need for economic diversification," the Bank says in its project documentation.

It puts youth unemployment at about 38.2 percent, while the proportion of young people not in employment, education or training stands at 42 percent.

According to the AfDB, skills mismatches, weak entrepreneurship and

limited access to affordable finance continue to contribute to high unemployment.

The Bank also identifies challenges within the education sector, including inadequate use of information and communication technology and poor access to technical and vocational education and training.

These challenges, it says, have contributed to low transition rates from secondary to tertiary education.

The negotiations come at a time when borrowing is becoming an increasingly important part of government financing.

Government budget documents show that total public debt, including government guarantees, stood at about P90.03 billion in December 2025, equivalent to approximately 33.02 percent of Gross Domestic Product.

The 2026 Budget projected that the figure could rise to 44.66 percent of GDP by March 2027 if planned financing requirements materialise.

Government is projected to borrow around P16.522 billion during the current financial year.

Parliament has also approved legislation raising the ceiling for public debt and government-guaranteed debt to 60 percent of GDP.

The Ministry of Finance confirmed to *The Monday Chronicle* that negotiations with the AfDB are ongoing.

The ministry's Permanent Secretary confirmed the existence of the proposed AfDB loan but had not responded to further questions, including the amount being negotiated, the proposed repayment terms and the expected implementation timeline, by the time of going to press.



▲ ABOVE Finance Minister and Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe (R) and President Advocate Duma Boko

The New Broom At DCEC

Dr Batlhalefi Moeletsi helped coordinate Botswana's national forensic audit. He now takes charge of an agency whose own weaknesses were exposed by that exercise.

RIGHT ►

Moeletsi is the new DCEC boss

INNOCENT SELATLHWA

His appointment as Director-General of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) places the lawyer at the centre of the next test for President Duma Boko's anti-corruption drive, turning findings into properly investigated cases.

Moeletsi assumed office on 18 September 2026, succeeding Botlhale Makgekgenene. Announcing the appointment a day earlier, the Office of the President said Makgekgenene's contract had ended after three years.

For readers encountering Moeletsi's name for the first time, his background stretches beyond the forensic audit into private legal practice, public inquiry work and criminal defence.

He attended Maun Senior Secondary School before studying law at Harvard University. During a visit to the school last year, Boko singled him out as an example of how far its learners could go, according to The Ngami



Times. The reference offered a glimpse of a lawyer whose educational journey the President was already holding up for others to follow.

Moeletsi also served on the Land Commission. A 2004 profile of its members identified him as a partner in the legal practice Moeletsi and Motumise, placing him in public inquiry work more than two decades before his appointment to the DCEC.

His courtroom experience includes representing then High Court judge Onkemetse Tshosa in a criminal case in 2012. Contemporary reporting records him challenging contradictions in prosecution witnesses' accounts. That experience provides a relevant perspective for his new job: understanding how evidence can come apart when tested in court.

His most immediate connection to the government's

accountability programme, however, is the forensic audit.

In March 2025, Moeletsi was named to lead a six-member working group responsible for coordinating directly with Alvarez & Marsal's forensic team. The group was separate from the steering committee chaired by former Bank of Botswana governor Moses Pelaelo. Moeletsi's assignment therefore placed him in the coordination of the exercise before he moved into anti-corruption enforcement.

The government's published audit summary gives a clear indication of the institutional problems awaiting him. It identifies weaknesses involving the DCEC and other oversight bodies, including inadequate resources and failures to turn serious matters into effective enforcement action.

Across the institutions reviewed, the report

raises concerns about evidence assessment, case management and follow-up. It recommends stronger case preparation, earlier involvement of prosecutors and closer cooperation between investigators, forensic specialists and asset-recovery practitioners.

For Moeletsi, those findings suggest that improving the DCEC's internal work will be as demanding as pursuing suspects. Investigators need the skills and support to assemble reliable evidence, and cases need consistent supervision from the first complaint onwards.

His previous audit role also puts the handling of potential referrals under particular scrutiny. Any matter arising from the exercise will require an independent assessment of the evidence. An audit finding cannot, by itself, settle criminal responsibility.

The wider test will be whether the agency applies the same standard wherever an investigation leads, including when politically influential people are involved. Confidence will depend on the fairness and quality of its work.

Moeletsi arrives with experience of questioning evidence from the defence bench. As the new broom at the DCEC, he must now help build cases capable of surviving that same scrutiny.

Botswana Steps Up Nuclear Security At Borders

Botswana is planning to strengthen nuclear security at its borders by installing a radioactive detection system at ports of entry in 2027, as part of wider efforts to improve the management of radioactive materials.

BOIKANYO MATHONSI

Minister of Communications and Innovation David Tshere outlined the plans at the 70th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference in Vienna on Tuesday.

“Botswana remains firmly committed to radiation safety and nuclear security. Under the Integrated Nuclear Security Sustainability Plan, we intend to install a radioactive border detection system at an additional port of entry in 2027,” said Tshere.

Minister Tshere said the government was also preparing to build a dedicated facility for radioactive sources that are no longer in use.

He highlighted that the facility was currently at the pre-construction stage, with construction expected to begin in 2027.

“One of our key ongoing



LEFT ◀
Tshere addressing
IAED General
Conference

PIC: MCI

programmes is the national management of radioactive waste. Our Radiation Protection Regulatory Act, 2026, came into effect on September 1 and provides for the establishment of an independent regulatory authority. Additional regulations covering nuclear security will also be completed by

2027,” he added.

Moreover, Tshere said Botswana was also expecting an IAEA review mission in 2027.

“We believe the mission would provide an opportunity to further strengthen the country’s nuclear security framework and capabilities,” Tshere said.

Beyond security and

regulation, Tshere said Botswana also planned to expand the use of nuclear technology to support development.

“Our government recognises the importance of developing nuclear technology applications and innovation to support key economic sectors and contribute to national development,” he added.

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Maun Dialogues Expose Deep Gaps In HIV, GBV And Human Rights Response

NNASARETHA KGAMANYANE

Community dialogues in Maun and surrounding villages have exposed persistent human rights violations, high levels of gender-based violence, low HIV testing among men and a four-month national condom stockout that is weakening prevention efforts.

The findings are contained in Success Capital's latest reporting period, covering August to the first week of September, and were shared by the organisation's director and founder, Dumiso Gasha.

Behind the findings are the voices of ordinary people in Wenela, Disaneng, Sedie, Sanyedi, Boseja, Thito and other villages, who spoke openly about abuse, stigma, poor access to services and weak protection systems.

Gasha said women in Wenela told one kgotla meeting that they are forced into unprotected sex. Young girls also spoke of sexual abuse by stepfathers. In Disaneng, men raised a different but equally painful concern, saying they know they have rights but those rights are not practised or respected.

"Human rights violations and weak rights awareness remain widespread," Gasha said. "In Maun, participants said there are no complaints procedure templates and that rights are violated without knowledge. In Disaneng, men said they know they have rights but those rights are not practised or taken into



LEFT ◀ LGBTQI+ people are still heavily judged in Maun, while the attitudes of some healthcare workers remain a challenge.

PIC: www.istockphoto.com

consideration. Illiteracy, cultural indifference and resistance to change were repeatedly noted as barriers."

The report says silence remains one of the biggest barriers in the fight against gender-based violence. Women and children described abuse at home that often goes unreported because families refuse to report relatives. Men who try to report abuse said they are often judged by police.

Across the communities, residents complained that the Botswana Police Service is not doing enough, that cases are not properly investigated and that survivors, whether women or men, are not always believed.

In Maun, residents said GBV cases are high and young people are being exploited, but trust in the system remains low.

That fear also follows people into health facilities. Many men said they do not want to test for HIV. Others said they lack the confidence to test, do not share results with partners and rarely go for couple

testing.

In Disaneng, residents made a direct appeal for HIV testing to be taken to homes and bars where men gather. In Sedie, men admitted that they are not willing to use condoms, while in Disaneng it was reported that many men with sexually transmitted infections never reach a clinic or hospital.

Stigma continues to deepen the problem. In Maun, fear of being judged makes people delay testing and feel uncomfortable sharing their HIV status. In Sedie, community members complained of breaches of confidentiality and alleged cases of false results.

Gasha said LGBTQI+ people are still heavily judged in Maun, while the attitudes of some healthcare workers remain a challenge. Some clients refuse to provide demographic information because they fear who may see it. Discrimination at work and in families also discourages follow-up when results are wrong or unclear.

Underlying many of these challenges is a prevention

crisis that has now lasted four months. From May to August, the country has faced a national stockout of condoms and lubricants. According to the report, only 60 condoms were distributed in August.

In Sedie, Disaneng, Sanyedi and Maun, residents reported empty shelves at clinics, limited condom distribution points and a shortage of test kits. They said government is not doing enough to ensure that basic prevention tools are available.

The gaps also affect treatment. Children complained that some mothers are not going through prevention of mother-to-child transmission programmes, increasing the risk of infections. In some communities, many people were said to be defaulting on antiretroviral therapy.

Those on PrEP raised concerns about daily pill fatigue, side effects and stigma, while long-acting PrEP options remain a matter of discussion and

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Maun Dialogues Expose Deep Gaps In HIV, GBV And Human Rights Response



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are not yet available to them.

The report also highlights the difficult conditions faced by community mobilisers, who walk long distances in the sun, on bad roads and with little money for fuel or transport.

In Sedie, residents complained of poor service delivery and limited healthcare resources. In Sanyedi, there were complaints of poor reporting and lack of supplies. Staff also reported dealing with difficult and sometimes rude community members, people unwilling to share their challenges and crowds that are hard to manage without digital tools. Some people did not want to register at all.

One of the most distressing findings came from a dialogue of 15 members in Maun, where participants reported high rates of abortion, the use of detergents to terminate pregnancies, rising deaths from unsafe abortions and cases that were reported but not fully addressed or taken to justice.

Gasha said these are not just logistical problems but policy failures. He said the condom and lubricant stockout has forced programmes to prioritise only the most at-risk clients. He said policies on stigma, confidentiality and non-discrimination may exist on paper, but enforcement, patient feedback mechanisms and safe, non-judgmental service standards are not functioning properly.

This is especially serious for men who have sex with men, LGBTQI+ people, sex workers, people who inject drugs, persons with disabilities and gender non-conforming populations.

Gasha said the GBV response also has serious protection and justice gaps, including weak follow-up from screening to psychosocial support, legal aid and shelter. He said human rights education is not systematically integrated into national and local structures such as kgotla meetings, clinics and schools.

Success Capital is calling

for urgent action to fix the supply chain through buffer stocks and last-mile delivery to clinics, bars and mobile points. It also wants confidentiality and patient rights enforced in all facilities through simple complaints templates and tracking tools.

The organisation is further calling for expanded mobile, after-hours, home-based and bar-based

testing, stronger GBV and abortion-related response systems, proper funding, police training, improved data quality and better operational support for remote outreach.

Without urgent action, Gasha warned, community programmes will continue to struggle to meet HIV and human rights targets, while people in Maun's kgotlas keep waiting to be heard.

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CASE NO: CCMVL-002471-25

IN THE MATTER BETWEEN:

JOHNSON MAKOPO

PLAINTIFF

AND

MOGOTSI ENNY OTUKILE

DEFENDANT

NOTICE FOR SUBSTITUTED SERVICE SUMMONS

To: **MOGOMOTSI ENNY OTUKILE** an adult male of full legal capacity, who whose further and better particulars are unknown to the plaintiff.

PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE the summons has been issued against you above registrar of court by **JOHNSON MAKOPO**.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT you are hereby commanded that within 7 days from the date of this publication, inclusive of the first day of such publication, you do cause an appearance to be entered for you in action at the suit of in which Plaintiff claims the following relief;

- Payment of BWP **22,000.00**.
- Interest at the rate of 10% a tempora morae.
- Costs of suit.
- Further and/or alternative relief.

TAKE NOTICE FURTHER that in default of you so doing the Plaintiff may proceed therein and Judgment may be given in your absence.

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Abortion remains a fault line in Botswana's reproductive health debate

RIGHT ▶

Botswana permits abortion only under specific circumstances.

CHRONICLE REPORTER



Abortion remains one of the most contested issues in Botswana's sexual and reproductive health debate, with support for protecting women's health existing alongside resistance to pregnancy termination in many circumstances.

The latest Afrobarometer survey, conducted between January 2024 and September 2025 across 10 Southern African countries, shows broad support for abortion when a woman's health or life is at risk. However, support falls when pregnancy results from rape or incest, or when termination is sought because of financial hardship or a woman's decision not to have a child.

The regional findings offer insight into the wider social environment in which Botswana's abortion laws and reproductive health policies operate.

Botswana permits abortion only under specific circumstances. These include rape or incest, as well as cases where continuing a pregnancy threatens the woman's health or life, subject to prescribed legal requirements.

Across the region, abortion laws differ considerably. South Africa and Mozambique have broader legal frameworks, while several other SADC countries maintain tighter restrictions.

These restrictions have consequences beyond the legal debate.

According to the report, the SADC Parliamentary Forum estimates that one in three unintended pregnancies in the region ends in abortion. Some women resort to unsafe procedures because of legal, institutional or social barriers.

The report also highlights unsafe abortion as a major public health concern, with delays in accessing appropriate care exposing women to serious complications and, in some cases, death.

The abortion debate is closely linked to access to contraception.

The Afrobarometer findings show that, across most countries surveyed, citizens support access to contraceptives regardless of marital status or age. Yet half of SADC member states are failing to meet the contraceptive needs of

adolescent girls and young women.

For Botswana, this connection matters. Unmet contraceptive needs can contribute to unintended pregnancies, while stigma and limited information may further complicate reproductive health decisions among young women.

Public opinion is more supportive of other aspects of sexual and reproductive health.

Large majorities across the surveyed countries support women's autonomy in decisions concerning marriage and childbearing. There is also strong support for sexuality education in schools and for allowing pregnant girls and adolescent mothers to continue their education.

The contrast is striking. Many respondents support giving women information and greater control over reproductive decisions, but remain reluctant to support abortion.

Opposition is particularly strong where a woman says she cannot afford to care for a child or does not want to have one. Only about half of respondents consider abortion

justifiable when pregnancy results from rape or incest.

The findings suggest that Botswana's debate cannot be separated from broader questions of poverty, gender inequality and access to contraception and reproductive health information.

The country is also part of a region that has made progress on several reproductive health indicators. According to the latest SADC sexual and reproductive health and rights scorecard, adolescent births have declined in 12 of the bloc's 16 member states. HIV infections, mother-to-child transmission and maternal mortality have also fallen.

However, adolescent girls and young women continue to face particular challenges, including higher HIV risks and unmet contraceptive needs.

As Botswana pursues the Sustainable Development Goals on health and gender equality, abortion is likely to remain a difficult but unavoidable part of the conversation.

The Afrobarometer findings do not settle the debate. They reveal strong regional support for women's reproductive autonomy in several areas, alongside significant reservations about ending a pregnancy.

For policymakers and health authorities, the challenge remains ensuring that women and girls can access accurate information, contraception and appropriate healthcare amid continuing legal and social divisions over abortion.

Botswana Faces New Frontier Of HIV And Ageing

As more Botswana living with HIV reach their 50s and 60s through successful ARV treatment, advocates warn that viral suppression alone is no longer enough. The next challenge is healthy and dignified ageing

RIGHT ►

"Ageing with HIV is an issue that Botswana needs to start giving great attention to"

PIC: www.magnific.com



For years, Botswana's HIV response has been measured in lives saved. By that measure, it has been one of the country's greatest public health achievements.

Access to antiretroviral treatment has allowed thousands of people who were diagnosed years ago to live longer, raise families, work, build homes and grow old. Many Botswana living with HIV are now reaching their 50s, 60s and beyond.

But that success has brought a new question: are people only living longer, or are they ageing well?

For Kennedy Mupeli, advocacy officer at the Centre for Youth of Hope (CEYHO), this is the next frontier of Botswana's HIV response.

"Ageing with HIV is an issue that Botswana needs to start giving great attention to," Mupeli

said in an interview. "Botswana's HIV response has been successful in enabling people living with HIV to live longer. Many of those who were diagnosed years ago are now reaching their 50s and 60s and beyond. That is a major achievement, but it also presents a new challenge."

He said the country can no longer focus only on keeping people alive and achieving viral suppression.

"We must also ask whether people living with HIV are ageing well and enjoying a good quality of life,"

On the ground, Mupeli said, the reality is already clear. Older people living

with HIV are increasingly managing other conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancers, mental health challenges, reduced mobility and other age-related illnesses.

This means a person can be virally suppressed but still face serious health and quality-of-life challenges.

"For Botswana, I believe we need to move towards more integrated care," he said. "An older person living with HIV should not have to attend one clinic for HIV, another for hypertension, another for diabetes and yet another service for mental health. Our health system needs to increasingly treat the whole person rather than just individual diseases."

His call comes as global evidence shows that the HIV epidemic is ageing.

The Lancet HIV Commission on Ageing's

2026 report, released ahead of HIV/AIDS and Ageing Awareness Day marked on 18 September, points to a major demographic shift. In 2025, an estimated 11.5 million people, or 29 percent of all people living with HIV globally, were aged 50 years and older.

That number is projected to rise to 20.2 million by 2040, representing more than half, 51 percent, of

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all people living with HIV. Crucially, 96 percent of them are expected to live in low- and middle-income countries, with sub-Saharan Africa carrying the greatest burden.

The Commission says this shift reflects the success of antiretroviral therapy, which has allowed millions of people who acquired HIV earlier in life to grow older. But it also warns that the challenge has moved beyond helping people live longer. The real test now is whether they can maintain good health, independence and dignity in older age.

There is also another side to the story. Older adults are still acquiring HIV and, in some cases, are being diagnosed late. Yet prevention and testing messages remain largely focused on younger people.

Mupeli said this blind spot is driven by stigma and the false belief that older people are no longer sexually active.

“HIV prevention messages usually focus on young people, yet older people remain sexually active and can acquire HIV,” he said. “Healthcare workers should therefore feel comfortable discussing sexual health, HIV testing and prevention, including pre-exposure prophylaxis, with older adults.”

The Lancet Commission raises the same concern. It says older adults are often wrongly assumed to be at low risk. As a result, healthcare workers may be less likely to discuss sexual health with them, recommend testing or offer prevention options such as PrEP.

Older people may also fail to see themselves in HIV messages that are directed mainly at younger people. These assumptions

can delay diagnosis and treatment, while also reinforcing discrimination in healthcare settings.

As Botswana marks HIV/AIDS and Ageing Awareness Day under the theme of healthy ageing, Mupeli said the message must go beyond clinic numbers and viral load results.

“As we age with HIV, our focus must go beyond viral suppression to include healthy ageing, the fourth 95, mental wellbeing, prevention and management of non-communicable diseases, reducing stigma and isolation, and improving overall quality of life,” he said.

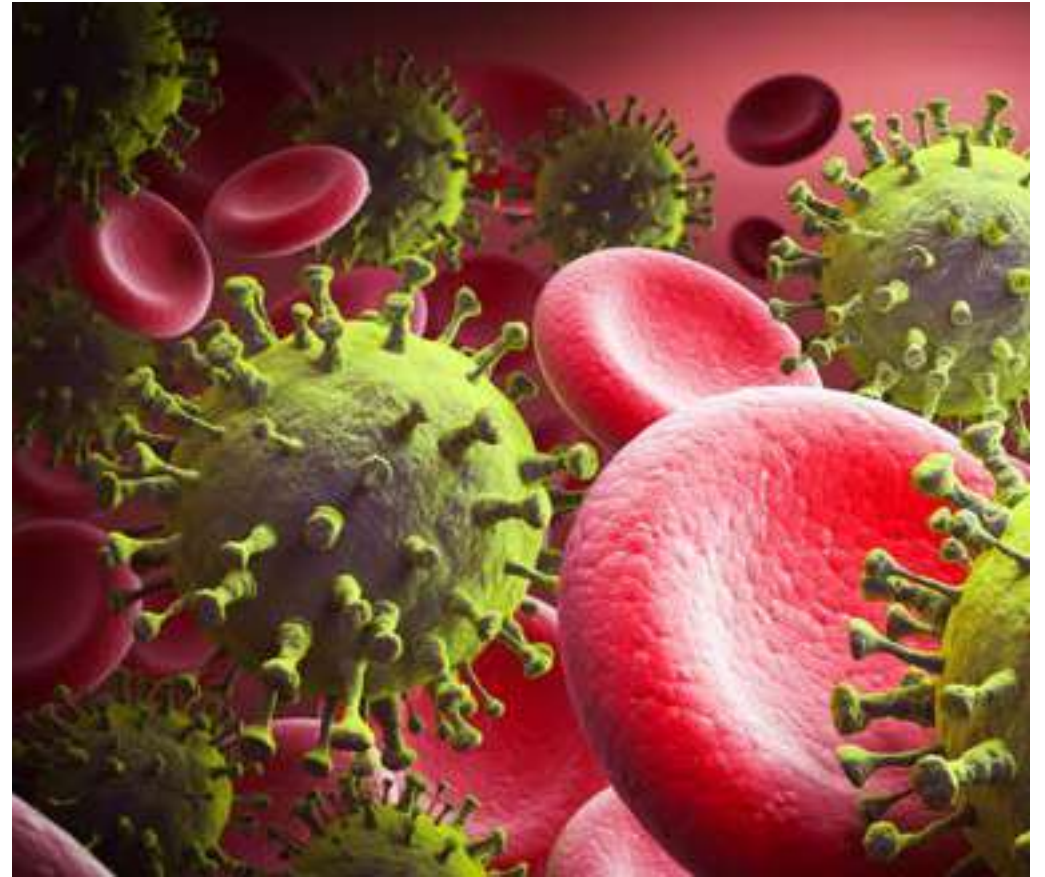
The “fourth 95” refers to the growing call for quality of life to be treated as a key measure of success in the HIV response, alongside testing, treatment and viral suppression.

For older people living with HIV, quality of life includes more than medicine. It includes mental health, social support, income security, mobility, dignity and freedom from stigma.

Mupeli said many older people living with HIV face double stigma: stigma linked to HIV and stigma linked to ageing. Some experience loneliness, job losses and mental health struggles that are rarely screened for in busy HIV clinics.

“We also have to address stigma and ageing,” he said. “We must ensure that older people living with HIV are not left behind.”

Central to that, he argued,



is listening to those most affected. Programmes should not be designed for older people without involving them.

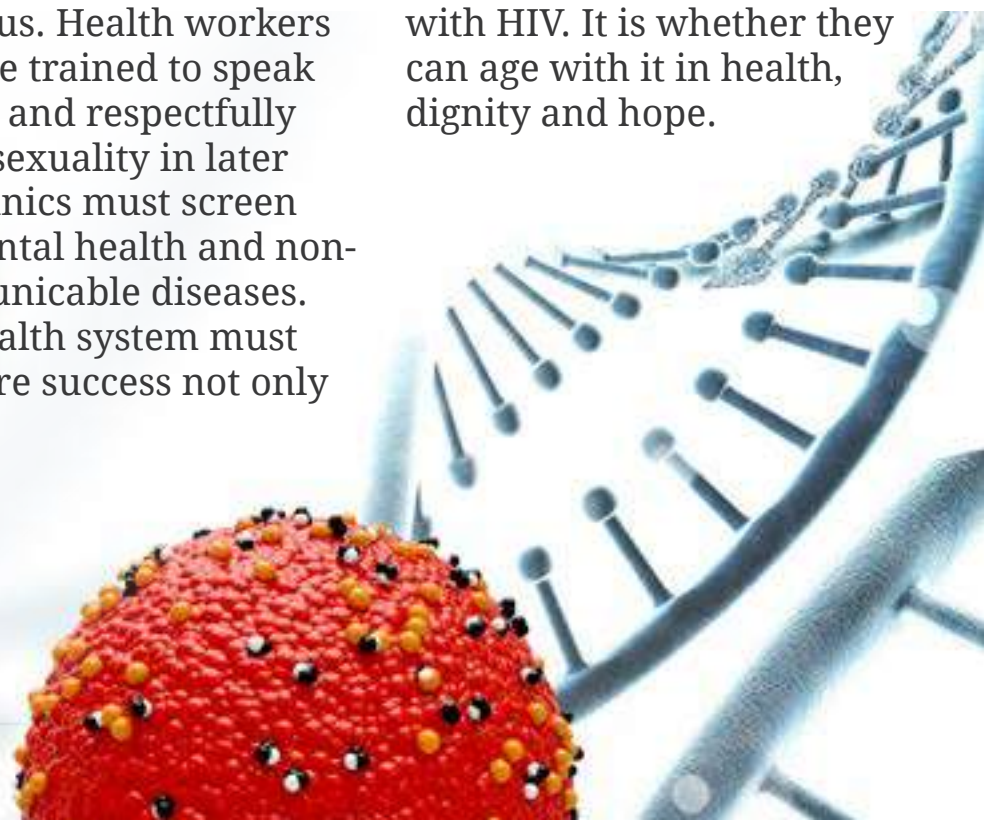
“The voice of people ageing with HIV is important. Policies and programmes should not be designed for us without us,” he said. “Long-term survivors have accumulated decades of experience navigating treatment, stigma, relationships, employment and health systems. That kind of lived experience should help shape Botswana’s next phase of the HIV response.”

For Mupeli, the way forward is clear. Botswana needs integrated and dignified care that treats the whole person, not only the virus. Health workers must be trained to speak openly and respectfully about sexuality in later life. Clinics must screen for mental health and non-communicable diseases. The health system must measure success not only

by viral suppression, but also by whether people are living well.

“Botswana has done exceptionally well in helping people living with HIV live longer,” he said. “The next challenge is to make sure that those additional years are healthy, dignified and fulfilling. Viral suppression is critically important, but our measure of success should increasingly include quality of life with ageing, mental health, functional ability and dignity.”

By 2040, more than half of all people living with HIV globally are expected to be over 50. For Botswana, a country widely recognised for its HIV response, the next question is no longer whether people can live with HIV. It is whether they can age with it in health, dignity and hope.



Editorial *Comment*

Government Must Stand With Grain Farmers

Botswana's grain farmers are in trouble, and time is running out. The Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board reportedly owes farmers about P100 million for grain already delivered. Some farmers have waited for months, even though BAMB is expected to pay within 30 days.

This situation should concern every Motswana. Grain farmers do more than run private businesses. They produce food for the nation, create jobs and reduce Botswana's dependence on imports. If they collapse, the whole country will feel the effects.

Farmers borrow money to buy seed, fertiliser, fuel and other inputs. They pay workers and take the risk of drought, floods and poor harvests. After doing all this, they deliver their grain to BAMB and expect to be paid on time.

Instead, many are still waiting while interest continues to grow on their loans. Some borrow at interest rates of more than 20 percent. It is unfair to punish farmers for delays caused by BAMB. They have delivered the grain and honoured their part of the agreement.

The report that five farms are now on the market in Pandamatenga is worrying. These farms may be privately owned, but their survival is a national matter. When a farm closes, Botswana loses jobs, skills, investment and food production.

Government must act quickly to help BAMB pay the money owed to farmers. If BAMB needs financial support, Government should provide it. However, this support must come with a clear plan to stop the same problem from returning every year.

BAMB also needs a stronger business model. It should find buyers before grain is delivered and make sure it has enough money to pay farmers on time. Government, BAMB, farmers and millers must work together on a national crop plan.

Farmers must know what to plant, how much the country needs and what price they will receive. Prices should be agreed before planting begins, not after farmers have already borrowed money, planted and harvested.

Government should also speak to NDB and other banks about the interest being charged while farmers wait for BAMB. Farmers should not carry extra costs caused by late payments from a state institution.

There must also be certainty about loans for the 2026/2027 planting season. If farmers receive money late, they may miss the planting season. That will reduce local grain production and force Botswana to import more food.

Botswana cannot continue talking about food security while its grain farmers are being pushed towards bankruptcy. Food security starts with supporting the people who work the land and produce food.

Why Are We Queuing Like This, Botswana?



Moiserale
Goya

If you want to understand one of the pains facing ordinary Botswana today, do not go to Parliament. Join a queue.

Go to pay your water bill or buy electricity. You will queue until you are exhausted for a transaction that should take three minutes.

Go to Transport to renew your vehicle licence or driver's licence. Go to Home Affairs for an Omang or passport. The queue starts inside and ends outside in the hot sun, with elderly mothers standing for hours. Some of them are living with diabetes.

Go to our large retail shops. Customers with full trolleys wait in long lines while three tills stand empty and closed. Go to the banks. They built six cubicles, but only two are staffed. You ask yourself: why were the other four built?

Visit a new filling station during its first week and attendants will compete to serve you. Return three months later and you may have to hoot to get their attention. They are gathered at the tuckshop, discussing football.

And now we have created a new and dangerous practice: using security guards to manage queues.

Is this really their duty? A security guard is employed to protect lives, property and money. If he is busy arranging queues, who is securing the premises if a genuine security threat

arises?

Call any government institution. The phone will ring for a long time, unanswered. If you are lucky, someone will pick up and say only, "Hello."

Then there is the third nightmare: correspondence.

Write a letter or email to any institution and wait days for an acknowledgement. I recently wrote to three different email addresses at one institution. My email showed "sent", but after three working days I had not received even an acknowledgement of receipt — something that should be easy to provide by email.

I was at least relieved after following up to learn that action was being taken. But in a modern economy, silence is disrespect.

To rescue public service, we need to:

- 1. Bring back floor managers.**
- 2. Let guards guard.**
- 3. Make telephone protocol law.**
- 4. Require every institution to acknowledge emails and letters within 24 hours.**
- 5. Introduce mystery shoppers for government services.**

Botswana was once known as a shining example of efficiency. We must not become a country where queuing is our new culture.

Botswana Needs To Strengthen Border Security Management

It is very important for the ordinary people of Botswana to develop a deeper understanding that the concept of security has broadened over the years. It is equally vital for the citizens to know that along with traditional threats to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of a state, it also envisages the non-traditional threats in many forms which include transnational organized crime. For the past few years it has been proved that among these transnational organized crime threats, it is the illicit and proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons that has gained prominence as a serious threat to Botswana's national security. The spate of cash heists and blasting of Automated Teller Machines at various parts of Botswana became a new normal which averages two or three armed robberies per week in 2022.

This is in addition to other crimes such as poaching and domestic violence. Along the way millions of pulas have been lost to these criminal entities. These acts of criminality are perpetrated by sophisticated networks of transnational criminal entities who smuggle arms into Botswana for the sole purpose of committing crimes. It is very common that these criminals use ungazetted entry points to gain their way into Botswana from neighboring countries such as South Africa, Zimbabwe and others.

The main question that comes to mind is how is it possible that transnational organized criminals find

it easy to gain entry into Botswana?

Botswana has very long and porous borders with many ungoverned spaces due to among others the difficult-to-access terrain by law enforcement officers, inadequate human and material resources and related technologies (such as drones) for effective surveillance and monitoring. In addition Botswana official border posts have many loopholes such as resource constraints in terms of advanced technology and expertise as well as complicity by some government security agencies and customs officials to corrupt behavior.

It is worthy to note that these transnational criminals who smuggle small arms and light weapons into the country are very well aware of these inherent border security management weaknesses hence their ability to manipulate those weaknesses with deadly effect.

From this one can safely argue that this weak border security management has provided an unhindered trafficking of small arms and light weapons from neighboring countries

and those weapons are eventually being used to carry out some heinous criminal activities in Botswana and the phenomenon has some serious national security implications to Botswana.

In order to address this glaring security challenge, Botswana government should understand that ensuring effective border security and management is essential for preventing and countering the flow of illicit arms that are used for various criminal activities. Botswana needs to do more to strengthen her border security management strategies.

There is an urgent need to invest in technological applications such as unmanned drones along the country's vast and porous borders for intelligence gathering of any suspicious activities.

These drone technology should be able to adequately send signals to law enforcement agencies who in this cases are Rapid Response Teams stationed at strategic points along different border posts and police stations around the country. Depending on the terrain and the distance, the Rapid Response Teams should either use strategic

helicopters or official vehicles to attend to the security situation on the ground. For this kind of strategy to be effective there must be commitment from the government to invest money to acquire the technology and related resources that are required and this can go a long way in Botswana's long term fight against transnational arms smugglers along our porous borders. Even though this strategy has its own weaknesses it has proved to be successful in the USA where law enforcement agencies apply it to combat transnational crime along the USA- Mexico Border.

Technology must also be applied efficiently at our border posts. For example there is a need for the use of CCTV cameras which are covertly manned on a full time basis by law enforcement officers and experts in criminal science and psychology with the strong ability to spot unusual behavior from those who enter and leave Botswana.

In addition there is need for arms detection X-rays as most of these small arms and light weapons can easily be concealed both within vehicles, luggage and body. Botswana must also have a national and international front line data base access where border officers can screen people's travelling documents, goods and vehicles against millions of Interpol records. As a member of Interpol Botswana have real time access to Interpol range of criminal data bases which contain millions of records contributed by many countries.



Beyond Magwinya: Facing Botswana's Non-Communicable Disease Crisis and rising deaths

When Dr. Machacha, who recently served as the Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, appeared before the Public Accounts Committee, he expressed deep concern over our increasingly unhealthy daily habits.

To some, it may have been a great source of comedic content, but if you peel back the laughter and look at the hard data, the humour evaporates.

The good Doctor was sounding a critical alarm.

There is global excess mortality for the last five years, including here in Botswana, going by preliminary findings from Statistics Botswana. A closer look at the data reveals a stark reality: non-communicable diseases are overwhelmingly the top killer, claiming roughly 58.8% of lives, driven heavily by diseases of the circulatory system (12.3%) and cancers (12.1%).

But what explains this shift? Why are these chronic conditions and deaths rising so rapidly?

When the doctor lamented, "re ja



mekwetjepe, re ja magwinya...", he was basically alluding to a sedentary lifestyle and poor diet regimes that have been largely adopted by many. The surge in non-communicable diseases directly mirrors the societal shifts brought about by globalization, economic expansion, and rapid urbanization, all of which have fostered increasingly sedentary lifestyles. With globalization, we witnessed the emergence of cheap, ultra-processed food hitting shelves all over the world. These kinds of foods are very high in sodium content, simple sugars, sweeteners,

flavourings, colorants, and a myriad of other chemicals for which many studies have demonstrated a linkage to hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and cancer. One of the more debilitating disease conditions is cancer, and there is a frightening rise of cancers in young people. Studies have linked alcohol intake, smoking, and the eating of highly processed food products to the escalation of cancer rates worldwide.

One item that is worryingly making a persistent feature on our plates is processed meats—your smoked beefs, Russian sausages etc. It has been shown

that eating "smoked beef regularly can increase your risk of cancer because the smoking and cooking process creates harmful chemicals that damage DNA" (<https://www.cancer.gov>). These food items are cheaper than regular meats and are therefore likely to be consumed in larger amounts than other less harmful meats. The same goes for your carbohydrates, where we find that the consumption of starches supersedes your whole-grain or unrefined carbohydrate sources that retain the fibre-rich bran and germ.

This poor nutrition is severely compounded by a modern lifestyle defined by prolonged inactivity, desk-bound jobs, and minimal physical labour. Consequently, the rising surge of illnesses should come as no surprise.

Ultimately, the doctor's words should serve as an urgent public warning: we must urgently change our daily health habits, as even the most advanced healthcare system in the world cannot fix a crisis born of poor lifestyle choices.

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Dr Keotshepile Motseonageng

THE BUSINESS OF INFLUENCE

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

LAW

One sentence I hear too often from entrepreneurs is:

“My business is registered with CIPA, so nobody can use my name.”

Not necessarily.

In my consultancy practice, this is one of the most common and costly misconceptions.

Company registration and trademark registration are distinct legal exercises. They may sit in the same intellectual-property and corporate-registration ecosystem, but they do different work.

Registering a company creates a legal entity. The company name identifies that entity. A trademark, by contrast, protects the sign that distinguishes your goods or services in the marketplace—the name, word, logo or other registrable sign by which consumers recognise the commercial source of what you sell. The distinction

is not academic. It is commercial.

Suppose you register Berry Heart Creations (Pty) Ltd and trade for five years as Berry Heart Coffee. You print packaging, build social pages, advertise and acquire customers. The market begins to associate Berry Heart Coffee with a taste, experience and reputation. Your company is registered.

But is your brand protected? That is a separate question.

Botswana's Industrial Property Act provides the framework for registering and protecting marks. It also sets out grounds for refusal, including conflicts with earlier rights or confusing similarity to an existing registered mark for relevant goods or services. In practice, a CIPA company registration will not defeat an earlier trademark owner's statutory rights. It may even expose you to opposition, infringement claims or forced rebranding.

This is why trademark protection cannot be postponed until success arrives. By then, value may already be exposed.

Your signage is an investment. Packaging is an investment. Advertising is an investment. Reputation is an investment. Every pula spent teaching the market to remember an unprotected brand may be increasing the value

of an asset whose legal foundation you have not secured.

There is a further discipline: CIPA registration is not one box marked “registered.” Ask precisely: What did I register? A company? A business name? A trademark? A logo? An industrial design? These rights differ. They protect different subject matter and produce different legal consequences.

A sophisticated entrepreneur therefore does not merely ask, “Is my business registered?” They ask, “What intellectual property does my business own?” That question changes everything.

Buildings can be rented. Machinery can be replaced. Stock can be replenished. But the name customers remember, the reputation attached to it and the commercial identity built over years may become among the most valuable assets in the enterprise.

So before you print another thousand packages, erect another sign or spend another pula advertising, conduct an intellectual-property audit. Identify your marks, ownership, classes, territories, registrations, pending applications and gaps. Know what you own. Know what you have registered. And know the difference.

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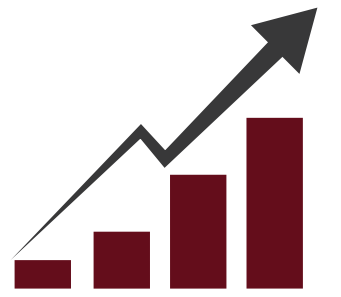
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TSAONE SEGAE TSHO

The Beijing Declaration Casts A Shining Sparkle On Natural Diamonds

Renowned diamond analyst and enthusiast James Allan told this publication in an interview that the Beijing Declaration was good for the struggling natural diamond market.

The Shanghai Diamond Exchange (SDE), in collaboration with the natural diamond-producing countries of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa and members of the Chinese and international diamond industries, signed the Beijing Declaration on Natural Diamonds and Sustainable Development (hereinafter referred to as the “Beijing Declaration”).

The SDE said the Beijing Declaration recognised the global nature of

the diamond industry and acknowledged the connection between the positive socioeconomic impact felt in diamond-producing countries and Chinese consumers of diamond jewellery, who are increasingly looking for authenticity and individuality in their jewellery choices.

“This is an important development in differentiating natural diamonds from lab-grown (synthetic) diamonds in the value chain,” Allan said.

Allan further said this was a good starting point for the marketing of natural diamonds. He said natural diamond producers needed to follow this up with a major brand-building

campaign in order to revive the natural diamond market.

“Ultimately, it is the consumers who need to prefer paying higher prices for natural diamonds over the lab-grown product. Brand building requires a significant and concerted effort by the industry. The buyer of De Beers will know they are in it for the long haul and cannot rebuild the brand in the short term,” said Allan.

China is the third-largest diamond importer after the USA and India. In 2025, mainland China imported \$3.3 billion in diamonds, making up roughly 4.9% of total global diamond imports.

“Natural diamonds are born of the earth, and beyond their value,

they deliver tangible socioeconomic returns for African diamond-producing nations: driving economic growth, providing jobs, livelihoods and skills development, and supporting conservation and biodiversity.

“The Beijing Declaration acknowledges natural diamonds’ unique geological origin, rarity and enduring value, as well as their deep-rooted cultural meaning within Chinese traditions as symbols of purity, beauty and eternal commitment. Through the Beijing Declaration, the industry acknowledges that these positive impacts deserve to be better understood by more Chinese consumers,” said the SDE.

Gaolathe Puts \$37bn Economic Opportunity In The Pipeline

BOIKANYO MATHONSI

Botswana has a potential US\$37 billion investment opportunity waiting to be turned into businesses, jobs and new industries, Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe has revealed.

The opportunity is spread across 186 projects and reforms identified through the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), with the projects estimated to have the potential to create about half a million jobs.

Gaolathe made the revelation at Chatham House, presenting the figures as part of Botswana's attempt to build an economy that can stand on more than diamonds.

The scale of the opportunity follows nearly 7,000 ideas and proposals gathered from government, business, communities, experts, investors and development partners.

"Nearly 7,000 ideas and proposals came back to us. From them emerged 186 potentially transformational projects and reforms across our productive sectors and the foundations on which we depend," said Gaolathe.

But he was quick to draw a line between having projects on paper and actually changing the economy.

"Those numbers are significant, but they are not yet transformation. Projects matter when capital is mobilised, and reforms matter when



▲ **ABOVE** Finance Minister and Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe in London

enterprises can invest and expand. Diversification is one of the most frequently spoken words in development. The harder question is why potential did not consistently become production, and why policy did not always become prosperity," he remarked.

He said the answer was to make execution a national strength and that the urgency was being driven by the country's continued dependence on diamonds and recent weakness in the diamond market, which he said had exposed vulnerabilities in the economy.

"Diamonds can remain part of Botswana's future without remaining the sole architect and architecture of that future,"

Gaolathe said the country should increasingly earn from what it produces and the knowledge and skills of its people, rather

than relying mainly on its natural resources.

"Our prosperity must increasingly come from what we know, from what we make and sell, rather than predominantly from what we extract," he said.

He identified artificial intelligence, digital technology and renewable energy among the

forces that could open new opportunities for Botswana.

But government, he stressed, cannot carry the transformation alone. "The private sector must become a larger force behind investment, innovation and employment," Gaolathe said.

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VACANCY

PROCUREMENT OFFICER – VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 14 OF 2026

The Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority was established under the BERA Act, 2016 (No 13 Of 2016) for the regulation of energy sector in Botswana. The Authority is responsible for providing an efficient regulatory framework for the regulated sector in accordance with the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority Act.

The Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) invites applications from suitably qualified professionals for the position of Procurement Officer, who will report to the Procurement Manager and support the effective implementation of procurement activities in line with PPR Act, and the Authority's policies, procedures, and regulatory mandate.

1. PROCUREMENT OFFICER – VACANCY CIRCULAR NO. 14 OF 2026

JOB PURPOSE

The Procurement Officer will be responsible for managing day-to-day procurement activities, Procurement of good and services, developing supplier contracts, evaluating and vetting suppliers, conducting contract negotiations, and ensuring compliance with PPR Act and BERA procurement policies and procedures.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

The incumbent will be responsible for the following:

- Administer procurement processes to ensure compliance with the PPR Act and BERA policies and procedures.
- Review, analyse, and process requests for the purchase of goods and services.
- Develop supplier contracts and negotiate favourable terms to optimise procurement costs.
- Initiate procurement of goods and services, prepare and issue purchase orders and ensure compliance with PPRA and procurement obligations.
- Coordinate inventory management activities by maintaining accurate stock records, monitoring stock levels, supporting regular stock counts, and ensuring the timely replenishment of goods to meet operational requirements.
- Research, evaluate, and vet prospective suppliers.
- Maintain and update supplier databases and procurement records.
- Support building and maintaining productive relationships with suppliers.
- Assist in the preparation of procurement budgets and cost analyses.
- Compile procurement reports and maintain procurement documentation.
- Assist to track procurement expenditure to ensure

alignment with approved budgets.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- A bachelor's degree in supply management, CIPS, Finance, Business Administration, or a related field.
- A minimum of five (5) years post-qualification experience in Procurement, Supply Chain Management, or a related field.
- Professional certification and membership with a recognised procurement or supply chain body, such as Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS), MCIPS is mandatory.

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

- Functional and technical procurement expertise
- Planning and execution skills
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Choppies Sales Rise As Consumer Volumes Stagnate

Choppies Enterprises' latest results reveal a growing disconnect between headline sales growth and the underlying strength of consumer demand, with retail sales rising 7.9% while volumes remained flat and like-for-like sales declined.

RIGHT ▶

The increase was driven by the opening of 27 new stores



TSAONE SEGAETSHO

The retailer's latest audited results for the year ended June 2026 show retail sales increasing to P9.822 billion from P9.107 billion a year earlier. But the increase was driven by the opening of 27 new stores and inflation, rather than stronger customer volumes.

Choppies reported zero volume growth, while price growth reached 9.9%. Sales from existing like-for-like stores fell by 1.2%.

Commenting on the performance in an interview with this publication, Choppies Group Financial Officer Minnesh Rajcoomar said the results reflected the difficult operating environment facing the retailer as consumers contended with reduced purchasing power and constrained spending.

The financial results show pressure on the income statement, with gross

profit increasing by 6.5% to P2.016 billion, while the gross profit margin declined from 20.8% to 20.5%.

Operating profit fell 23.6% to P243 million, while adjusted operating profit declined by 37.6% to P219 million. Rajcoomar told this publication that costs were growing much faster than gross profit in Pula terms.

Rajcoomar further attributed the pressure to several factors, including reduced consumer liquidity linked to Botswana's diamond-market slump, government austerity measures, the devaluation of the Pula, higher fuel and transportation costs, inflation, the implementation of a living wage and new stores that have yet to reach maturity.

For Rajcoomar, the like-for-like decline is an important indicator of what is happening beneath

Choppies' headline sales performance.

The company's expansion strategy is simultaneously creating an opportunity and a short-term cost burden. The 27 new stores helped drive sales, but Rajcoomar said these stores had not yet reached their maturity curve.

The group is betting that its current investment in store expansion and operational infrastructure will eventually generate greater operating leverage as the new outlets mature and economic conditions improve.

There are also differences across the group's markets. In Namibia, government-subsidised commodities affected the competitive environment, while in Zambia, the appreciation of the Kwacha contributed to deflation in key food lines.

In Botswana, the results offer an insight into how

weakness in the country's wider economy is being transmitted to everyday consumer activity.

For investors, another significant development was the board's decision not to declare a final dividend for FY2026, compared with a final dividend of 0.6 thebe in FY2025.

Choppies said it would retain earnings to preserve liquidity for core operations and support its growth plans.

P9.822bn
Retail Sales
Up 7.9 from P9.107bn



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Agric Sector Warned To Stop Playing Catch-Up

RIGHT ►

Phoenix of Botswana CEO Carlson Chiswo

BOIKANYO MATHONSI

The agriculture sector must stop playing catch-up with drought, disease and climate shocks and start preparing before they strike, Phoenix of Botswana CEO Carlson Chiswo said.

Speaking at the National Lands and Agriculture Expo 2026, Chiswo said the sector needed to change how it dealt with risks and build stronger systems to protect food production.

“We cannot sit and wait to realise or to feel the impact of El Niño,” he said.

Chiswo said the current situation in the livestock sector should also force a rethink of how agricultural risks are managed.

“The fact that we don’t have animals here speaks to the fact that the challenge within the agriculture space is beyond weather. It goes beyond weather,” said Chiswo.

He said the experience with foot and mouth disease should further push the sector to examine its level of preparedness.

“Foot and mouth disease is something that we have known to exist, but the way



▲ **ABOVE:** “We cannot sit and wait to realise or to feel the impact of El Niño,”

it has attacked us this time around, we are all asking ourselves the question: Are we prepared? And if we are prepared, do we have models that respond?” he said.

Moreover, Chiswo said the sector could not continue relying on approaches that had been used in the past and must instead find new ways of dealing with agricultural

risks.

“We cannot, and I want to emphasise, we cannot do things the same way that we have done them before.”

As part of that approach,

Chiswo said Phoenix was using insurance to help farmers and the government manage agricultural risks. The company offers Area Yield Index Insurance, Weather Index Insurance, Livestock Index Insurance and Sovereign Drought Cover.

Chiswo also highlighted Phoenix’s model farms in Koro and Mosetse, which he said were testing farming methods suited to Botswana’s semi-arid conditions.

“The Koro farm is expected to produce more than 2,600 bags of maize, while the Mosetse farm is expected to produce about 1,600 bags. The projects have also created almost 100 seasonal jobs in surrounding communities,” he said.

Furthermore, he said research and reliable information must also form part of the sector’s response.

“It is important that data drives our response strategies,” he added.

He said Botswana had an opportunity to develop an agricultural model suited to its own conditions.

“The story of Botswana as an example of how we can transform agriculture in a semi-arid environment is yet to be told. If we do not cooperate as stakeholders, these initiatives will fail, not because they are not good, but because they are not implemented and remain on our table. Agriculture is critical, and we are not giving up on it,” Chiswo remarked.

Arts&Lifestyle

ARTS, MUSIC, FOOD, LIFESTYLE

Palanani Paints Botswana's Story

▶▶ ON PAGE 24



Palanani Paints Botswana's Story

RIGHT ►

Palanani bagged P30,000

CHRONICLE REPORTER

Young artist Kaene Palanani's victory in the Nando's Art Initiative has given him more than an award. It has opened a new chapter in his artistic journey.

Thursday's triumph was particularly significant for Palanani, not only because he emerged victorious, but also because of what his winning artwork, *Leinane*, represents.

Leinane, meaning "story", explores Botswana's culture and heritage, as well as the passing of stories from one generation to another.

At the centre of the artwork is an elder seated around a fire with three children, telling them a story. From the smoke rising above the fire emerge different elements associated with Botswana, including cattle, San rock art, music and the national flag.

Palanani said the imagery represents the traditions, livelihoods, creativity and identity that have shaped generations of Botswana.

The artwork also reflects Botswana's journey from the past into the present and future. A diamond symbolises an important part of the country's modern history, while the city skyline and road represent a nation that

continues to develop and move forward.

At the top of the artwork, a young person looking upwards represents reflection, hope and the generations yet to come.

For Palanani, the elder in the artwork is more than a storyteller.

"She is passing on a part of Botswana itself," he explained.

As Botswana marks 60 years of independence,



Palanani said he wanted *Leinane* to encourage reflection on the stories inherited from previous generations and the responsibility that comes with preserving them.

"We all inherit a story, but we also have a responsibility to preserve it, reinterpret it and continue it," he said.

The Nando's Art Initiative victory is also expected to give the young artist opportunities to expand his reach beyond the local art scene.

Palanani said the recognition had come at an important stage in his career, giving him a chance to reach new audiences, build relationships and potentially open doors to exhibitions, collaborations and collectors beyond Botswana.

Although the recognition has boosted his confidence, Palanani views the achievement as the beginning rather than the culmination of his

journey.

"I'm grateful for the recognition, but I also see this as a beginning,"

The experience, he added, has strengthened his confidence to continue developing his artistic practice and producing work that tells Botswana's stories through a contemporary lens.

For Palanani, *Leinane* is therefore not simply an artwork about the past. It is a conversation between generations, connecting Botswana's heritage with the present while looking towards the future.

Through his work, he hopes to take Botswana's stories and contemporary art into bigger spaces, ensuring that the country's cultural narratives continue to be seen, interpreted and carried forward by new generations.



SOS Children's Villages Marks 40 Years Of Care With Gala Celebration

NNASARETHA KGAMANYANE

Organisation calls for local support as international funding ends in 2027

SOS Children's Villages in Botswana will mark four decades of supporting vulnerable children and families with a 40th anniversary gala dinner on Saturday, 28 November 2026, at Cresta Lodge Gaborone.

Held under the theme , the celebration reflects a journey that began in Tlokweng in 1986 when the first village opened its doors. The organisation later expanded to Francistown in 1998 and Serowe in 2008, reaching thousands of children and families.

"Celebrating 40 Years of Care is a very special milestone for SOS Children's Villages in Botswana," said an SOS representative. "It is an opportunity to reflect on four decades of standing with children, young people and families, but also to look ahead at how we can continue responding to the changing needs of children in Botswana."

More than 3,000 children have benefited from SOS programmes over the years. Today, the organisation cares for 188 children across its three villages, while approximately 1,500 receive support within their families through family strengthening programmes.

The organisation also



▲ **ABOVE** : SOS is calling for Support

reports that 366 children have been reintegrated into families and communities, while 126 have been reunified with their families. Other achievements include home ownership for 11 formerly abandoned children and after-care support for 78% of young people.

The gala dinner will serve as both a celebration and a fundraising drive as the organisation prepares for the end of international funding in 2027.

"The Gala Dinner is first and foremost a celebration of 40 Years of Care, impact and hope, but it is also an important fundraising opportunity," the representative said. "We want to use the occasion to celebrate the people and partnerships that have supported us over the past four decades, while also mobilising support for the work that continues every day. The needs of children do not end because we are celebrating an anniversary."

About 250 guests are expected at the black-tie event. Red-carpet arrivals will run from 6pm to 7pm, followed by dinner from 7pm to 10pm.

Refilwe Lesolle, Fundraising Officer: Digital & Corporate, said the programme would feature entertainment, personal accounts from care leavers and recognition of the organisation's supporters.

"We want the evening to be memorable, so guests can expect entertainment from Mafitlhakgosi Traditional Group, Oratile Kofa amongst many others, testimonies from our care leavers on their personal journey, and opportunities to recognise our partners and supporters," Lesolle said.

"It will also be an opportunity for guests to network with business leaders, government representatives and development partners who share an interest in improving the lives of children."

According to SOS, Botswana's middle-income status led to the organisation's placement under a self-sustainability cluster in 2023. International funding has since been gradually reduced and is expected to end in 2027, increasing the need for local support.

"The cost of providing support is significant.

Utilities are charged at commercial rates, plus daily needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, healthcare and psychosocial support," the organisation said. "We remain committed to supporting each child until they become self-reliant young adults."

SOS is also moving towards community-integrated and family-based care, allowing children to grow up in homes within local communities without labels or stigma.

Tickets cost P400 for persons with disabilities and children under 18. Phase two tickets are P450 until 31 October, while phase three tickets cost P500. A corporate table for 10 costs P15,000.

Tickets are available through Webtickets, Cresta Lodge Gaborone and SOS Children's Village Tlokweng.

"Having a special ticket price for Persons with Disabilities and Children Under 18 is one way of making the celebration more accessible," SOS said. "It reflects our values that every child and every person deserves to be included and valued."

Lentswe Le Kwadilwe Gets A Facelift As Lobatse Restores Its Pride

Lobatse's famous Lentswe Le Kwadilwe landmark is coming alive again as residents work together to restore one of the town's most recognisable symbols.

RIGHT ▶

Lentswe Le Kwadilwe has been a part of Lobatse's Identity for Generations

NNASARETHA KGAMANYANE



From sunrise, young and old climb the hill carrying paint buckets, brushes and brooms. They clear vegetation, rearrange stones and repaint the giant white inscription that has welcomed travellers to Lobatse for decades.

This year, the message reads: "WELCOME 2026 LOBATSE. HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOTSWANA, 60TH ANNIVERSARY."

Leading the project is Botoka Ward Councillor Onneetse Alistar Kagiso, who says the work is about more than giving the landmark a fresh coat of paint.

"What is happening at Lentswe Le Kwadilwe is more than a facelift. We are restoring a landmark that has been part of Lobatse's identity for generations," Kagiso says.

He says the initiative was inspired by concern that the landmark, which shaped the

childhood memories of many residents, had lost its former glory ahead of Botswana's Diamond Jubilee.

"We wanted to demonstrate that communities do not always have to wait for government or major financial investments to initiate meaningful development," he says. "Sometimes, all that is required is a shared vision, collective effort and a willingness to take responsibility for the places we call home."

The idea grew from a conversation among people who grew up in Lobatse, including Elvis Theo Dambe, Thabang Mookodi, Seth Sennye, Jimmy Mudenda, Motasi Legabala, Onkgethetse Setshwane, Omphile Kofi and Gaone Mokgethi.

They reminisced about Woodhall, Bothakga, Kasi and other places that shaped their childhood before turning to

memories of the annual renewal of the hilltop inscription.

The tradition began in 1986 but gradually faded. Kagiso says no one is to blame, adding that community traditions can disappear when responsibility for maintaining them is not deliberately passed from one generation to the next.

The restoration has attracted residents from across Lobatse, while businesses and organisations have contributed paint, water and transport. Supporters include TOPAZ Paints, Liberty Life Botswana, The Last Saturday, Twin Sailors, Cyberpoint, BWOB, Arrabella Water, Lobatse Town Council and several individuals.

"The greatest achievement is not simply the number of people who participated, but the willingness of residents to take ownership of their town," Kagiso says.

The vision extends beyond repainting the stones.

Kagiso hopes Lentswe Le Kwadilwe can become a heritage and recreational destination offering organised hikes, heritage walks, photography and adventure tourism. A proposed zipline remains an aspiration that would require technical, environmental and safety assessments, as well as council support.

For now, the priority is maintenance. Kagiso wants the restoration to become an annual community activity before Independence celebrations, with schools and young people involved.

"When a young person participates in painting a stone today, we want them to return years later with their own children and explain why that stone matters," he says.

"This is our town, our heritage and our responsibility."

THE MONDAY Chronicle Review

Ideas, Stories & Voices worth Reading

Reviving Setswana, One Proverb at a Time: Dr Ramasu Takes Tsosoloso Ya Segarona Across Borders



NNASARETHA KGAMANYANE

In a world where children scroll more than they read, and where bedtime stories have been replaced by screens, one Botswana author is quietly bringing back the fireside.

Dr Kelemogile Ramasu, the author behind the growing cultural series Tsosoloso Ya Mainane, has released his latest work — Tsosoloso Ya Segarona, Mainane, Diane le Dithamalakane — a 200-page book written entirely in Setswana, dedicated to the revival of Botswana's storytelling soul.

"The title, Tsosoloso Ya Segarona, means the revival of our culture — storytelling culture, idioms and proverbs," Ramasu explains. "The book is a collection of diane, dithamalakane and maele."

It is his most comprehensive collection yet. While his previous book, Tsosoloso Ya Mainane, has already



▲ Dr Kelemogile Ramasu

travelled the world — translated into Chinese, Afrikaans, French, Shona, Shekgalagari, Senaro and Thimbukushu — this new offering is rooted firmly in Setswana, for Batswana, by a Motswana.

"My intention with this publication is to revive our culture and heritage and to sell our country to the world," he says.

Inside, readers will find a rich treasure of folktales, proverbs, riddles and idioms that many Batswana heard from their grandmothers but never saw written down. It is a book that reminds us where

we come from, and who we are.

And the revival is working.

"Some of my readers in South Africa, more especially in North West Province, say they read the stories to their kids in the evenings. Slowly but surely people are cultivating the culture of reading," Ramasu says with pride.

The demand beyond Botswana's borders has been overwhelming. The book has built a loyal following on Facebook through the page Tsosoloso Ya Mainane Book, where a considerable number of followers are South Africans. Week after week, parcels are sent across the border via Sprint Couriers.

It was that demand that led to a major breakthrough. Lindi Mataboge, a bookshop owner in Rustenburg, approached the author, and today Tsosoloso Ya Segarona is officially selling at Lesedi Bookshop in Rustenburg, South Africa.

The cover itself tells a story. It features his 15-year-old daughter, Angel Malaika Kgopolo, who is herself an author and a beauty pageant queen. Dressed in traditional leather attire, with mathlowa around her ankle and a traditional ball beside her, she embodies cultural pride.

"I have used my daughter. The cover speaks volumes about our culture — it shows our identity and where we come from as Batswana," he says.

Ramasu says his writing process is communal. He still consults his former Setswana teachers like Tshegofatso Monggae, elders in the community, fellow authors such as Sheilah Onkemetse, and his own rich knowledge of Setswana.

Who should read the book? Everyone who loves the language.

"The book is for Setswana lovers, all schools, filmmakers and Setswana enthusiasts," he says.

But writing in Setswana in Botswana is not without heartbreak.

"Publishing a book in Botswana is very expensive. It costs an arm and a leg to do a 200-page book. We do not have many reliable bookstores in Botswana. They charge us a lot of commission," he says frankly.

Despite the cost, he is not slowing down. In fact, he is thinking bigger and more digital.

"We are also working on electronic books as well as animating the stories. We are finalising Mainane Cartoons to be played on our televisions. We are also finalising the Mainane App," he reveals.

Plans are already underway for more book launches and workshops in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Soon, the book that is now in Rustenburg will be available in Potchefstroom, Mahikeng, Zeerust, Polokwane, Groot Marico and other towns across South Africa.

Nthaga faces the odds in crucial Zebras double header

Thaloba Nthaga has little time for a gentle introduction as his interim assignment begins with two demanding fixtures and a pressing challenge of giving the Zebras a winning start to their pursuit of Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualification.

RIGHT ▶

The prize on the line is unprecedented back-to-back AFCON qualification. Having appeared at the finals in 2012 and 2025, the Zebras are chasing a third appearance and, for the first time, a place at consecutive tournaments.

CHRONICLE REPORTER



Botswana opens its 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying campaign away to Libya on Thursday, September 24, before facing Tunisia on Monday, September 28. Pitting their wits against two North African opponents, four days apart, will provide an immediate examination of Nthaga's team.

The prize on the line is unprecedented back-to-back AFCON qualification. Having appeared at the finals in 2012 and 2025, the Zebras are chasing a third appearance and, for the first time, a place at consecutive tournaments.

Nthaga, however, said the immediate focus is readiness rather than records. "We still have four more players who are based outside the country, they are joining us on Monday when we arrive in Libya. In terms of our

preparations, they are going well. We should be ready for the game on Thursday," he said.

Nthaga said players began reporting for camp on Monday, September 14, although Thursday marked the first occasion on which the entire locally based contingent trained together. Preparations continued through Saturday ahead of the team's Sunday departure for Libya, with the four foreign-based players expected to link up with the squad on Monday, September 21.

That leaves a short window to bring the full group together, sharpen combinations and settle on an approach capable of delivering points away from home. Nthaga's assessment is encouraging but the challenge is translating that confidence into a

performance strong enough to withstand the demands of an away qualifier.

Botswana's recent results underline the scale of the task. The Zebras have recorded one victory, one draw and eight defeats in their last 10 outings. Their latest result, a 1-0 win over Malawi in March, offered some relief but the wider sequence remains a warning against expecting an easy turnaround.

Libya's record is considerably steadier with three wins, five draws and two defeats over their last 10 matches, counting their penalty-shootout elimination by Palestine as a loss. That contrast suggests Botswana will need more than renewed enthusiasm to leave with a positive result.

A positive result would give Nthaga something valuable to carry into the Tunisia

encounter, evidence that the team can compete, rather than merely the belief that it should.

The qualification rules make the opening double-header particularly significant. Botswana shares Group H with Libya, Tunisia and Uganda but Uganda's automatic qualification as co-hosts means only the highest-placed non-host team will advance. Botswana, Libya and Tunisia are therefore competing for one available place, rather than the usual two.

Both September fixtures are consequently against direct rivals for that berth. Neither match will settle qualification but an encouraging start would prevent the Zebras from immediately becoming the chasing side. Equally,

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Orebonye opens fourth chapter in Morocco

CHRONICLE REPORTER

Botswana striker Tumisang Orebonye has found another home in Moroccan football, signing a one-year deal with Hassania d'Agadir (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 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 Morocco.

LEFT ◀

Orebonye has scored 14 goals in 71 Moroccan top-flight appearances.

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.

Nthaga faces the odds in crucial Zebras double header

From Page 28

dropped points would make an already demanding assignment more difficult.

Botswana are seeking their first away victory in AFCON qualifying since October 10, 2024, when Tumisang Orebonye's early strike secured a 1-0 win over Cape Verde. That performance remains a useful reminder that the Zebras can turn a

difficult trip into a decisive result.

Their subsequent away qualifier also delivered something substantial, a 1-1 draw with Egypt that secured qualification for the 2025 finals. The previous campaign showed the value of taking chances and protecting hard-earned points on the road.

Against Libya, however, the qualifying history favours the North Africans. The teams first met in the

qualifiers for the 2004 AFCON, drawing 0-0 in Libya in March 2003 before Botswana lost the return fixture 1-0 at home that June.

Their next qualifying encounters again produced narrow scorelines. Botswana lost 1-0 away in June 2022 before winning 1-0 at home on June 17, 2023. Across those four qualifiers, Libya have two victories to Botswana's one, with one draw and every decisive

result has been settled by a single goal.

Those margins offer both a warning and an opportunity. Botswana cannot afford carelessness but neither does the history suggest an opponent beyond their reach. Nthaga says the Zebras should be ready. On Thursday, that confidence faces its first competitive test and Botswana's pursuit of history begins with the much more immediate business of collecting points.

Young Zebras Held by Comoros

BOIKANYO MATHONSI

Young Zebras opened their COSAFA Under-20 campaign with a point after being held to a goalless draw by Comoros on Saturday.

Botswana had opportunities to win the match but failed to find the goal that would have secured a perfect start to the tournament.

The Young Zebras enjoyed 53 percent possession and registered eight attempts at goal, although only one was on target. Comoros had 10 attempts, with three testing the Botswana goalkeeper.

The result leaves both teams on one point in Group C, while Zambia sit at the top with three points after beating Malawi 2-0 in their opening match.

For Botswana, the clean sheet provides something to build on,

but their failure to convert possession and chances into goals will be a concern ahead of their next match against Malawi on Monday.

Young Zebras coach Boy Radipotsane admitted his side struggled to settle into the game, particularly in midfield.

"We did not start well. We had so many problems in midfield. Our midfield did not play well. They were not attacking like we planned," Radipotsane said.

He, however, remains confident that the players will improve as the tournament progresses, pointing to their limited preparation before the competition.

"This is our first international game. As you know, these young boys did not have a pre-season event at home.



The league just started, and most of them play in the First Division. They will rise. They know what to do. We are here to compete," he said.

Malawi will also be looking to bounce back after losing their opening match to Zambia.

Their coach, Enos Chatama, admitted his players failed to execute their game plan.

"We did not deserve to win as we did not do what

we practised," Chatama said after the defeat.

Monday's encounter therefore carries added importance for both sides. Malawi will be searching for their first points of the tournament, while victory for Botswana would take the Young Zebras to four points and strengthen their position ahead of their final Group C match against Zambia on September 23.

Shito-Ryu Showcases Botswana's Karate Talent

BOIKANYO MATHONSI

Young karatekas and seasoned competitors went head-to-head at Al Nur School in Gaborone as the Shito-Ryu Karate Open Championships marked its 13th edition, bringing together participants from as young as four years old through to the senior ranks.

The annual tournament featured Kumite bouts across different age, gender and weight divisions, giving competitors an opportunity to put their training into practice and battle for honours.

Speaking at the

championships, Botswana Karate Association (BOKA) president Sensei Mpho Bakwadi said participation in competitive tournaments was an important part of an athlete's development.

"Every competition is an opportunity to learn, improve and become stronger," Bakwadi said.

He reminded the karatekas that their progress should not be measured only by whether they won or lost a bout.

"Win or lose, you have demonstrated courage, discipline, respect and determination," he added.

Among the junior competitors, Tefo Bagopa

impressed in the Boys Junior Kumite Under 55kg category, emerging champion in his division.

Franklin Molhambi was another standout performer, claiming the Junior Male +55kg title.

The senior women's contests also produced strong performances, with Lelentle Malabola winning the +55kg Kumite title while Lesika Motswagole finished on top in the Under 55kg division.

In the senior men's +67kg Kumite category, Otsile Mabika emerged victorious, adding his name to the list of

champions from the 13th edition of the tournament.

Bakwadi also highlighted the important role played by parents and families in helping young karatekas remain committed to the sport.

"Behind every young karateka is a parent who sacrifices time, resources and energy to help them grow," he said.

The championships once again provided a platform for emerging and established karatekas to test themselves in competition while showcasing the depth of talent developing within Botswana's karate ranks.

Raguin Completes Golden Double In Japan

RIGHT ►

Raguin completed a remarkable week in style

PIC:

Botswana Tennis Association

CHRONICLE REPORTER



Botswana tennis star Ntungamili Raguin completed a remarkable week in Japan by winning both the singles and doubles titles at the ITF J200 Miki.

Raguin sealed the double on Sunday after coming from a set down to defeat tournament top seed Mustafa Ege Sik of Australia 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the boys' singles final.

The victory capped an impressive tournament for the young Motswana, who had earlier lifted the doubles title alongside Pakistan's Mikaeel Ali Baig.

Raguin showed character in the singles final after Sik dominated the opening set 6-1. Instead of allowing the match to slip away, the Botswana player recovered strongly, taking the second set 6-3 to force a decider.

He maintained the momentum in the third set, again winning 6-3 to complete the comeback and secure the J200 singles crown.

His route to the final had already tested his resilience.

In the quarter-finals, Raguin recovered from losing the opening set 6-0 against Ymerali Ibraimi before storming back to win the next two sets 6-2, 6-2.

He then defeated Australian seventh seed Ethan Domingo 7-6(4), 6-4 in a demanding semi-final to set up the title clash with Sik.

The singles triumph came shortly after Raguin and Baig completed an equally impressive run in the doubles competition.

Playing together for the first time, the pair defeated Australia's Sik and Taiki Takizawa 7-5, 6-2 in the final.

Their road to the trophy saw them overcome the tournament's No. 2, No. 3 and No. 1 seeded pairs, making their title run even more impressive.

The victory gave Raguin his second J200 doubles

title of the year after he also won the African Junior Championship doubles crown at J200 Cairo earlier in 2026.

But his success in Japan went a step further.

By adding the singles championship, Raguin walked away from Miki with two titles from the same tournament, underlining his growing reputation on the international junior tennis circuit.

The J200 Miki, also known as the Japan Open Junior Tennis Championships, was played at the Bourbon Beans Dome in Miki, Japan.

For Botswana, Raguin's double triumph provides another major international success for one of the country's brightest young tennis prospects.

He leaves Japan as both the J200 Miki singles champion and doubles champion after a week in which he repeatedly overcame highly seeded

opponents and difficult matches to take both trophies.



Rollers Put Three Past Gunners



▲ **ABOVE:** Popa Popa Fans in jubilant mood

BOIKANYO MATHONSI

Township Rollers beat Extension Gunners 3-0 at the National Stadium on Sunday after Gunners were reduced to 10 men in the 17th minute of the FNB Premiership encounter.

Gunners goalkeeper Kabelo Dambe was sent off for handling the ball outside the penalty area, leaving his side to play the remaining 73 minutes at a numerical disadvantage.

Gunners head coach Paradazayi Madivenga said the dismissal was a major setback.

“Dambe is a key figure in our defence,” Madivenga said.

Despite the setback, Gunners held Rollers to a goalless first half.

Rollers head coach Oupa Kowa admitted his side struggled to make their numerical advantage count before the break.

“Horrible first half. I was not happy in the first half. They got a red card, and our performance after that was disappointing,” Kowa said.

Rollers finally broke the deadlock seven minutes after the restart when

captain Marcell Papama struck to make it 1-0.

Madivenga felt the opening goal changed the game, believing Gunners could have remained in contention had they held on longer.

“We conceded an easy goal. If we could have maintained that 0-0 up to about the 75th minute, I think Rollers were going to be desperate, and maybe we could have sneaked something,” he said.

Papama struck again in the 86th minute to double the lead and put Rollers firmly in control.

Onkarabile Ratanang completed the rout in the 90th minute, curling a free-kick into the net to make it 3-0.

Kowa said the team’s half-time discussion helped improve their performance after the break.

“We went to the dressing room. A few words were said, and that changed a lot of things,” he said.

The victory earned Rollers three points, while Gunners suffered their first defeat of the campaign after winning their opening two matches.



FNB PREMIERSHIP 2026-27 SEASON WEEK 04* LOG STANDING									
		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	SUA FLAMINGOES	4	2	2	0	3	1	2	8
2	POLICE XI	3	2	1	0	3	0	3	7
3	EXTENSION GUNNERS	3	2	0	1	2	3	-1	6
4	ENESIA FC	3	1	2	0	3	2	1	5
5	TONOTA FC	3	1	2	0	3	2	1	5
6	TOWNSHIP ROLLERS	2	1	1	0	4	1	3	4
7	MOCHUDI CENTRE CHIEFS	3	1	1	1	3	2	1	4
8	BDF XI SC	3	1	1	1	3	4	-1	4
9	GABORONE UNITED	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
10	TAFIC FC	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	3
11	NICO UNITED	3	1	0	2	3	4	-1	3
12	ORAPA UNITED	3	0	2	1	1	2	-1	2
13	MORUPULE WANDERERS	3	0	2	1	1	3	-2	2
14	JWANENG GALAXY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	PRISONS XI	3	0	0	3	1	4	-3	0
16	MATEBELE FC	3	0	0	3	0	3	-3	0

THE MONDAY Chronicle Sport

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Tennis

Raguin Completes Golden Double In Japan

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