



TUESDAY GRILL

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BOLD AND JUST



MOLAPISI REMOVES KGAFELA-MOKOKA, MOSWAANE FROM BPP NEC

A widening rift has emerged between Botswana People's Party (BPP) President Motlatsi Molapisi and Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) leader Duma Boko over Molapisi's push to have Minister Nono Kgafela-Mokoka ejected from Cabinet and removed as Specially Elected Member of Parliament (SEMP).

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MOPHUTING FAMILY'S GRIP ON DUMA BOKO

President Duma Boko's move to appoint Mpho Churchill Mophuting as BDF Commander has ignited talk of a growing Mophuting family stronghold, with sister Maipelo in the Presidency and Malebogo Mpugwa advising on De Beers and the Sovereignty Fund

STORY ON PAGE 4



NIC TOLD TO STEP BACK

LETLHGILE MPUANG

It has been almost a month since President Duma Gideon Boko's trusted aide, Niculus Kgopotso, popularly known as Nic Matthews, was last seen publicly alongside the Head of State. Records show he last appeared as part of President Boko's entourage at the Global Expo in Gaborone on October 8, 2025. He was notably left behind during the President's recent trip to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

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KGALAGADI SOUTH ELECTIONS: UNMASKING BDP'S DIANA MEMERY KAAARTZE

- *That 2,630-vote gap was not failure, was a message to listen more*
- *BDP is coming as a family that never abandoned its people, not opposition*
- *Agriculture, tourism, local employment are her focus are to stimulate economy*

KETUMILE RAMATITI

In two Weeks's time 18, 454 registered voters will queue in various polling stations to cast their votes for any of the five candidate who have been successfully nominated in Kgalagadi South. Amongst those, is Botswana Democratic Party's (BDP) Diana Kaartze, who is also the only female contender in the by election race.

Kaartze lost the constituency to the late Dr Micus Chimbombi by 8700 while she was voted for by 6070. In an interview with **Tuesday Grill**, Kaartze started by revealing her political journey and what she intends to do for Kgalagadi South constituents.

LANDING IN POLITICS

"Honestly, I did not plan to become a politician. It was something that grew inside me over time. I have always been passionate about community work, helping the elderly, women, youth, the underprivileged and local projects thrive.

But at some point, I realized that real change needs both compassion and policy. I saw that the very issues I cared about, health, education, livelihoods were being shaped by decisions made far away from the people they affect most or even that I cared for most.

So, I made a choice, instead of complaining, I decided to contribute. I did not join politics for fame or power; I joined because I believe service is sacred. And for me, leadership is simply a continuation of that service."

BRIDGING THE 2024'S 2600 GAP FROM UDC

As the first BDP candidate to lose the constituency in last year's general elections, Kaartze says he has always through the years believed that a loss is a lesson in disguise

therefore she never believes that she lost. "That 2,630-vote gap was not failure, it was a message. It told me to listen more, to engage more deeply, and to bring people closer into the conversation."

This time, she says she is not chasing numbers, she is building relationships. So far, she has gone back to every ward, Werda, Tsabong, Gakhibana, Bokspits clusters not with speeches, but with an open ear. "We are reconnected with people who felt left out, and I can feel the shift. We have strengthened our ground teams, we have improved communication, and above all, we have restored confidence."

This time, the BDP is not coming as an opposition; it is coming as a family that never abandoned its people, she says.

HER FOCUS GROUPS AND GEOGRAPHICS FOR A WIN

Going into this election Kaartze is not focusing on a specific voter group. "My focus is on the ordinary Motswana, the everyday heroes who keep our communities alive. That means young people who are hungry for opportunity, women who are holding families together, and farmers who are the backbone of our rural economy. We are also reconnecting with families who have always stood with the BDP, reminding them that this movement has always been about stability, not politics and that we have been building together.

Geographically, she says she will be focused on the areas that define Kgalagadi South like Werda, Tsabong, Bokspits, clusters including Khawa. These are not just places; they are the heartbeats of the area history.

"I am walking among them again, not as a visitor, not as a new face who has not worked with them in times of challenges but as their own

daughter coming home."

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN HER CAMPAIGN STRATEGY

Going into these highly anticipated elections, Kaartze says they have shifted gears compared to the last polls.

"This time, we are not waiting for rallies or big gatherings. We have gone back to the basics, heart-to-heart campaign and building relationships that are trustworthy as well as political education as compared to propaganda. We are having small but meaningful conversations in homes, and kraals or any other place that offers an opportunity for interaction. Every person counts. Every voice matters. We have also become more organized, more disciplined, and more personal. We are using social media to reach the youth, while also respecting traditional structures, the elders, churches, and community gatherings. We want people to see that leadership is not about noise; it is about consistency, honesty, and connection. We are not just campaigning to win votes; we are rebuilding trust."

CONVINCING VOTERS WHO SUPPORTED RULLING UDC LAST YEAR

"First, I understand them. Many voted for the UDC not because they disliked the BDP, but because they were frustrated, they wanted change. And that is fair."

She however says what they have seen over the past year is that the Culture is richer and wiser than all of us highlighting a proverb "Setswana sare molemo wa kgang ke go buiwa".

It took the hands of many, young and old, women and men from all walks of life together to build this peaceful country that never had the challenges we experience now.

"So, I am not here to judge them. I am here to invite them back home. The BDP has always been about peace, progress, and people. We built the foundation of this country, and we are ready to rebuild where things have fallen apart because we have the experience and had similar challenges back in 2014/15 and 2020 even worse but the BDP Govt managed all situations well and no lives of Batswana were compromised."

CONCRETE PLANS TO CREATE JOBS AND STIMULATE KGALAGADI SOUTH ECONOMY

The region relies mostly on Agriculture and livestock. As such, to address the issue of unemployment Kaartze will focus on the following;

Tourism development: Promote sustainable tourism, such as photographic safaris, film production, and game viewing, and support community-owned lodges to ensure benefits flow to local people.

Local employment projects: Create jobs for the youth by using local resources, such as the sand brick-making project and artifacts made from clay using local sand as well as weaving.

Encourage small businesses like general dealerships and beer brewing as sources of income.

Employment center to facilitate for the placement of Kgalagadi South Brigade graduates or constituency unemployed youth across companies in Botswana (also training and skills development).

Kgalagadi South Community Trust – all assets of the constituency to be managed and coordinated by the people of Kgalagadi South. The people of K.S. to take part in the decision-making process of the trust.

Partnerships with international organizations such as Conservation International to capacitate local NGOs working on environmental.

POSITION ON LAND ALLOCATION AND SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE

"It is my view that shortage of land is hindering economic activity in Kgalagadi. Animals occupy 63% of the land in terms of parks while 27% is reserved for communal use while only 7% is reserved for freehold. My belief is that some of the land reserved for parks should be freed up for farming because the animal population has dwindled in recent times. Most people in this constituency want to rear goats to supply a lucrative local and domestic market but are unable to start such projects because of acute land shortage," she explained in an interview.

KAARTZE'S UNIQUENESS AS A FEMALE CANDIDATE AND PROMISE TO WOMEN

Women's political participation is low in Botswana and I am a great communicator. I think differently; I apply logic, reason, and emotional aspects in equal proportion, to the solution of problems. I have an unusual amount of intuition and empathy when it comes to people which I gained from my background as a Healthcare professional. I can figure out motivations and intentions with a high rate of accuracy, with people whom I have had very little interaction with.

In terms of expectations, what should women expect from you? "I am going to advocate strongly against Physical, sexual, and psychological violence against women. Advocate for equality with a view to developing standards and policies to combat sexism and harassment; and establish an independent, confidential"

BOKO APPOINTS NEW ARMY CHIEF

A defining moment for Botswana's Defence Force as President Boko oversees the historic handover of command to General Mophuting.

KAGO JOROMEA

President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, has yesterday morning (Monday) presided over a solemn change of command ceremony at Sir Seretse Khama Barracks (SSKB), marking a new era for the Botswana Defence Force (BDF). The event, rich in military tradition and national pride, symbolized the formal transfer of authority and responsibility from one commander to another. It was a moment that united Botswana's military heritage with its future, honoring service, discipline, and leadership.

Senior government officials, military attachés, veterans, and soldiers filled the parade grounds to witness the transition from Lieutenant General Placid Diratsgae Segokgo to General Mpho Churchill Mophuting. The atmosphere was dignified yet spirited, a blend of reflection, gratitude, and anticipation for the next chapter in the nation's defence story.

The handover featured deeply symbolic rituals performed by President Boko, outgoing commander Lieutenant General Segokgo, and incoming commander General Mophuting. The trio took part in the passing of flags, representing the continuation of trust and loyalty within the ranks. This was followed by the signing of official certificates and the exchange of swords, sealing the transfer of command.

The precision of the ceremony reflected the discipline that defines the BDF. Soldiers stood at attention as the military band played, the national colours gleaming under the morning



sun. President Boko's presence underscored the government's appreciation of the BDF as a pillar of national unity, security, and peace.

Accepting his appointment, General Mophuting expressed heartfelt gratitude to President Boko for entrusting him with the leadership of the army. He called his new role both an honor and a duty to build upon the foundation of professionalism and service established by his predecessors.

He commended President Boko's decision to elevate the commander's position to a four-star general, describing it as a bold reflection of the administration's commitment to institutional growth and national defence. "This elevation signifies confidence in the BDF's leadership and renewed recognition of its role in protecting Botswana's peace and sovereignty," he

said.

General Mophuting outlined five strategies that will shape his leadership and define the future of the BDF. His priorities include strengthening command structures, modernising defence capabilities, and promoting a just and accountable military system. "Discipline without justice becomes tyranny," he said, affirming his intent to lead with fairness and integrity.

He also pledged to develop a unified doctrine aligned with Botswana's defence goals and the evolving nature of global warfare. Controlling operational costs and eliminating waste, he added, would ensure that the BDF remains efficient and mission-focused. His leadership, he said, will be guided by a clear vision one rooted in the nation's aspirations and the enduring values of duty, service, and

courage.

General Mophuting emphasized that the heart of the BDF lies not in its machinery but in its people. "Modernization must be people-centric," he said. "Our soldiers are the strength of our institution their welfare, training, and morale must always come first."

He noted that a well-trained and motivated force is Botswana's greatest safeguard against emerging threats, urging the military to adapt, innovate, and uphold the principles of unity and professionalism. He also reaffirmed Botswana's role in regional stability, pledging to strengthen international cooperation through peacekeeping and defence partnerships.

In his farewell remarks, Lieutenant General Segokgo reflected on his 42 years in service, describing his

journey as one marked by perseverance and transformation. "My years in the BDF were a lesson in endurance, duty, and sacrifice," he said, his voice steady but filled with emotion.

He thanked the men and women of the Defence Force for their unwavering loyalty and discipline, urging them to continue upholding the values that have shaped the BDF since its inception. Segokgo expressed deep confidence in General Mophuting's leadership, describing him as a visionary officer who embodies the ideals of courage, respect, and excellence.

"I leave the command with pride, knowing that the future of this great institution rests in capable hands," Segokgo said. He encouraged officers to embrace the new commander's reform agenda, noting that leadership renewal brings opportunity for growth, progress, and innovation.

The transition from Segokgo to Mophuting marked more than a change in command, it symbolized the evolution of an institution that has long been a cornerstone of Botswana's national identity. President Boko's attendance reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening national security while preserving the traditions that bind the Defence Force together.

As the country saluted both the outgoing and incoming commanders, the day's ceremony stood as a reminder of Botswana's enduring stability and its respect for disciplined, visionary leadership. The Botswana Defence Force now looks to the future under new stewardship, one that promises reform, unity, and renewed purpose.

MOPHUTING FAMILY'S GRIP ON BOKO

Concerns grow as siblings occupy key roles in the Presidency and military leadership

LETLHOGILE MPUANG

President Duma Gideon Boko has appointed Ambassador Mpho Churchill Mophuting as the new Commander of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF), making him the latest member of the influential Mophuting family to hold a strategic position in the Presidency.

The appointment has intensified perceptions that the Mophuting family wields considerable influence in the new administration. *The Tuesday Grill* has established that Churchill Mophuting is the elder brother of Assistant Minister in the Office of the President, Maipelo Mophuting, and Malebogo Mpugwa, who serves as Chief People Officer at De Beers Group in London.

Mpugwa, who was recently appointed to the board of the government's Sovereignty Fund, is said to advise President Boko on matters relating to De Beers.

Following the dissolution of

the Ministry of Defence and Security, the BDF now falls under the Ministry of State President, the same ministry where Maipelo Mophuting serves as Assistant Minister. Insiders say this setup effectively gives the family dual control over the military and the Presidency.

Government sources warn that, while no wrongdoing has been cited, the arrangement could present potential conflicts of interest.

"We are not questioning their competence, they are respected professionals in their own right," said a senior official. "But this creates an awkward situation where Churchill Mophuting, as Commander of the BDF, ultimately reports to his own sister, the Assistant Minister at State President."

Observers have compared the situation to the 2019 controversy under former President Mokgweetsi Masisi, when Elias Magosi served as Permanent Secretary to the



President while his cousin, Peter Magosi, headed the Directorate on Intelligence and Security (DIS). At the time, the Magosi family faced similar allegations of consolidating power.

Some analysts argue that the current setup reflects poor political foresight by the Presidency.

"It looks a bit untidy and could feed public criticism," said one academic. "The optics alone can raise questions about internal checks and balances."

Other sources suggest President Boko might consider transferring Maipelo Mophuting to another ministry to mitigate any perception of conflict. *The Tuesday Grill* understands that a cabinet reshuffle is expected after the Kgalagadi South by-election, although it is unlikely that Maipelo will be dropped given her close working relationship with the President.

Maipelo currently serves as Member of Parliament for Gaborone Bonnington North, the constituency President Boko vacated before the 2024 general elections, a move that stirred internal friction within the Botswana National Front (BNF).

Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) chairperson Karabo Gare said the President must reassure the public that appointments are made

strictly on merit.

"I do not question their competence. They are accomplished professionals," Gare said. "However, the President must make it clear that these appointments were made on merit and not out of favouritism. The nation needs that assurance."

Leader of Opposition in Parliament, Dumelang Saleshando, echoed similar concerns.

"It does not look good," Saleshando told *The Tuesday Grill*. "The President should reflect on this and consider reshuffling Maipelo to another ministry. We have had situations before, like with Placid and Thulaganyo Segokgo, but at least they served in different portfolios. This is about optics and good governance."

The Botswana National Front (BNF) spokesperson, Carter Onalethata Joseph, had not responded to questions on the matter by the time of going to press.

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Board Appointments

BDC welcomes new board members to advance its growth agenda

The Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) is pleased to announce the appointment of seven accomplished professionals to its Board of Directors. The new members bring a wealth of expertise across finance, law, economics, strategy, governance, and investment management, further strengthening BDC's strategic leadership and oversight capabilities. Their appointments exemplify BDC's commitment to enhancing its leadership strength and maintaining exemplary governance standards in promoting Botswana's development agenda.



Ms. Alice Wellio-Moyo

Chief Financial Officer of PrimeTime Holdings Limited, a Chartered Certified Accountant with over 19 years of experience in finance, audit, and corporate governance.



Mr. Bokete Mokgosi

A finance and asset management executive with a decade of senior leadership experience in investment consulting and corporate strategy.



Ms. Chawada K. Moseki

An organisational development and change management specialist with nearly two decades of experience driving transformation across multiple sectors.



Mr. Rizwan Desai

Managing Partner at Desai Law Group and one of Botswana's foremost corporate and finance lawyers, with extensive governance experience including former Chairmanship of Absa Bank Botswana and the Botswana Stock Exchange.



Mr. Boniface G. Mphethe

A seasoned economist and former Director of Macroeconomic Policy at the Ministry of Finance, with expertise in national policy formulation and development planning.



Ms. Botsang Ramorwa

An investment professional with over 14 years of experience in private equity, corporate finance, and project finance across Africa.



Prof. Goemeone E.J. Mogomotsi

Deputy Permanent Secretary for Trade and an academic leader in international financial and environmental law, with an extensive research and policy background.

Further announcements will follow, unveiling two additional Directors. Highly accomplished professionals whose diverse, multidisciplinary and international expertise will further enhance the Board's collective strength and accelerate the Corporation's capital deployment into Botswana's priority growth sectors.

BOTSWANA RAILWAYS' P30 MILLION STORM: MINISTER, BOARD, AND GM IN ANOTHER BITTER SHOWDOWN

- Minister Salakae, Sehurutshe want the deal given to Life Compass company
- They have already met BR GM Ntwaagae three times to convince, he is refusing
 - GM Ntwaagae believes the proposal will not help BR and labels it illegal
- Board supports the GM; a big fallout created between Salakae and the board

KETUMILE RAMATITI

Peace and stability will for the considerable amount of time remain elusive at Botswana Railways (BR) as a fresh storm brew between Transport Minister Noah Salakae, the newly appointed General Manager Dominic Ntwaagae, and the parastatal's Board of Directors.

At the heart of the fallout lies a controversial P30 million contract that sources describe as a "deal gone wrong" one that could reshape the future of the state-owned railway company.

The contract in question involves Life Compass (Pty) Ltd, a company owned by businessman Shadrack Baaitse. Registered less than six months ago, Life Compass has no prior experience in rail operations.

Despite this, the company is reportedly on the verge of securing a lucrative tender to provide "technical advisory and strategic services" to BR a move insiders view as an indirect attempt to privatize the parastatal.

Multiple senior BR sources allege that Minister Salakae and his ally, Omphile Sehurutshe who is the Presidential Advisor-Projects, have been pressuring GM Ntwaagae



to endorse the deal. Ntwaagae has reportedly been summoned three times to meetings aimed at convincing him to proceed, but he continues to resist.

"The GM is standing firm," a highly placed BR source said. "He believes the Life Compass proposal is not only useless to the company's goals but also illegal in its current form."

This is not the first time the same deal has caused turmoil within Botswana Railways.

According to insiders, the proposal from Life Compass closely mirrors an earlier presentation made by

Camdaw Group–Reliance Rail INT (Pty) Ltd, suggesting that much of the new bid was copied and repackaged.

Former BR General Manager Conductor Masena was dismissed after rejecting the same contract. The late Baboloki Phuthogo, who also reportedly opposed it, died under suspicious circumstances, deepening speculation and fear among staff members.

Since assuming office, Minister Salakae has dissolved two BR boards, often amid controversy over governance and contract disputes. Now, sources warn that he may be preparing to

fire the current board after it sided with GM Ntwaagae against the proposed deal.

The current BR board has thrown its full weight behind the GM, arguing that the deal violates both procurement protocols and public enterprise governance standards.

"The board will not be part of anything unlawful," another insider said. "But the Minister is not backing down. There's talk that he is already planning to dissolve this board too."

The board's resistance has reportedly infuriated the Ministry, creating a governance standoff that

threatens to paralyze the parastatal's operations.

The biggest puzzle, according to those close to the matter, is why the Minister remains adamant about seeing the Life Compass deal through despite widespread opposition and apparent legal risks.

"This is not about the project's merit anymore it's about power and control," said one source familiar with the negotiations. "The company is new, untested, and the proposal brings no tangible benefit to BR. Yet the Minister wants it done at all costs."

Attempts to obtain official comments from Minister Salakae and BR Board Chairperson were unsuccessful. Both declined to respond to questions sent to them this week.

The escalating standoff has left BR's internal stability in jeopardy. With the General Manager and Board resisting political pressure, and the Minister showing no signs of retreat, insiders fear a repeat of past purges that left the organization leaderless and unstable.

For now, all eyes remain on the unfolding drama one that could determine whether Botswana Railways stays on track or derails under the weight of politics and patronage.

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COURT ORDERS DK SUPERIOR TO HALT OPERATIONS IN NG13 AMID ALLEGATIONS OF MALADMINISTRATION AND WILDLIFE CRIME LINKS

GRILL REPORTER

The High Court in Maun has ordered DK Superior (Pty) Ltd to cease all operations in the NG13 concession area, following revelations of maladministration, non-compliance, and alleged ties between the company's superiors and convicted wildlife criminal Dawie Groenewald.

The decision marks a critical moment in a long-running dispute over the management of the Tcheku Community Conservation area (NG13) a vital ecological zone within the Okavango region. The ruling not only reinforces the court's authority but also exposes deep-seated irregularities in how wildlife concessions are administered in Botswana.

In a ruling delivered on 24 October 2025, Justice B. Maripe joined both the Tcheku Community Trust and Old Man's Pan (Pty)

Ltd as respondents in the matter involving DK Superior, the Attorney General, and the Director of Wildlife Conservation and National Parks. The court further ordered DK Superior to cover all legal costs and to immediately discontinue operations within NG13, pending the resolution of the main case.

This comes after months of tension and confusion surrounding DK Superior's continued presence in NG13, despite an earlier court order directing the company to vacate the area. The company's defiance has raised serious questions about administrative oversight within certain government departments, with conservation advocates and local communities accusing officials of turning a blind eye to illegality and unethical conduct.

Reports have since surfaced suggesting that DK Superior's

management maintains close links with Dawie Groenewald, a South African national notorious for his involvement in large-scale rhino poaching and wildlife trafficking. Groenewald, who has faced multiple wildlife crime charges in South Africa and the United States, has long been considered one of the region's most controversial figures in the illegal wildlife trade. His alleged association with individuals operating in Botswana's conservation areas has sparked outrage among environmentalists and community leaders alike.

"This situation exposes the cracks in our system," said one conservation advocate based in Maun. "When a company can continue to operate after a court order to stop, and when there are whispers of connections to convicted wildlife criminals, it reflects a worrying level of maladministration and weak enforcement."

Meanwhile, the Tcheku Community Trust representing local residents with ancestral and custodial ties to the land has found itself in a difficult position. Although the Trust has been allocated hunting quotas for the NG13 concession, the land has not yet been officially leased to it, leaving the community unable to exercise full control over its resources. This bureaucratic delay has fuelled speculation that vested interests are working to undermine genuine community participation in natural resource management.

In contrast, Old Man's Pan (Pty) Ltd has emerged as a model of ethical practice and community partnership. The company has consistently demonstrated a commitment to sustainable tourism, transparent operations, and respect for the rule of law. Its inclusion in the High Court case is widely viewed as a positive step toward restoring fairness and ensuring

that conservation-based enterprises operate with accountability and community benefit in mind.

The High Court has directed all parties to submit their affidavits and arguments ahead of the main hearing set for 12 November 2025. Legal experts say the case could set a precedent for how Botswana manages conflicts between private concessionaires, local communities, and state authorities particularly in sensitive conservation zones.

For many observers, the outcome of the NG13 case will serve as a litmus test for Botswana's commitment to transparency, environmental integrity, and justice. As the matter returns to court next month, public attention remains sharply focused on whether DK Superior will finally vacate the land as ordered and whether accountability will extend to those within the system who enabled its unlawful operations.

HIGH COURT REINSTATES BASUBIYA CHIEF

In a landmark ruling that underscores the sanctity of traditional leadership, the Maun High Court has reinstated Munitenge Lawrence Liswani Sinvula III as the recognized Kgosi of the Basubiya Tribe, declaring the government's attempt to strip him of his status as "unlawful, irrational, and procedurally improper."

KAGO JOROMEA

The judgment, delivered by Justice Godfrey Nthomiwa on November 3, 2025, brings temporary closure to a deeply contentious legal and cultural dispute that pitted the Basubiya traditional authority against the state. The case was brought against the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Kethlalefile Motshegwa (1st Respondent), his Ministry (2nd Respondent), and the Attorney General (3rd Respondent).

The case arose after Minister Motshegwa issued letters in September 2025 purporting to "rectify" Sinvula's chieftaincy withdrawing his recognition as Kgosi of the Basubiya Tribe under Section 6(2) of the Bogosi Act and reclassifying him as a sub-chief of Kavimba village under Section 21.

This move came shortly after Sinvula had queried why his

salary was not aligned with that of other chiefs recognized under Section 6(2). Rather than address the administrative concern, the Minister responded by downgrading his chieftaincy a decision the court found to be "triggered by an irrelevant issue" and taken without notice, consultation, or lawful basis.

In his ruling, Justice Nthomiwa emphasized that Bogosi "touches the soul and structure of a people," serving as a unifying force and custodian of culture. Any interference, he noted, must be grounded in law and procedural fairness.

The court found that the Minister's actions were ultra vires taken outside the powers granted by the Bogosi Act and based on a "constitutionally irrelevant consideration": the fact that the Basubiya Tribe is not represented in the Ntlo ya Dikgosi.

"The Bogosi Act is a complete and independent code for the



recognition of tribes and their leaders. It draws no distinction between tribes represented in the Ntlo ya Dikgosi and those that are not," Justice Nthomiwa stated.

The judge further ruled that the Minister's attempt to reclassify Sinvula's appointment under Section 21 was a "substantive de-recognition" that could only be lawfully done under Sections

13 or 15 of the Act which require an inquiry, a hearing, and gazetted notice. None of these steps were taken.

Sinvula's lawyers, Morupi Mbeha and Mishingo Jeremiah successfully argued that the 1st Respondent's decision was not only illegal but also procedurally unfair and irrational. The court agreed, noting that the Applicant had strong prospects of success in the pending review.

On urgency, Justice Nthomiwa held that the matter warranted immediate intervention. The de-recognition, communicated just days before Independence celebrations, had already caused "anxiety, panic and unrest" within the Basubiya community. The harm loss of dignity, tribal unity, and social cohesion was deemed "irreparable" and incapable of redress through a later court order.

The ruling confirms the rule nisi issued on September 29, 2025,

and stays the decision of the 1st Respondent pending the final review. Sinvula will continue to be recognized and perform his duties as Kgosi of the Basubiya Tribe until the review is determined.

Although Sinvula sought punitive costs, the court ordered the Respondents the Minister, the Ministry, and the Attorney General to pay costs on an ordinary scale, noting that the Minister's misinterpretation of the law, while wrong, was not malicious.

The judgment has been hailed as a cultural and legal victory for the Basubiya, a tribe predominantly based in Chobe District. For decades, the community has sought official recognition and a unified leadership structure. The court's ruling not only restores their chief but also reaffirms the legal standing of smaller tribes outside Botswana's eight major tribal communities.

PRESS RELEASE



BOTSWANA OIL
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MISLEADING FALSE STATEMENTS ABOUT BOTSWANA OIL LIMITED

Botswana Oil Limited (BOL) is issuing this statement to address recent false and misleading claims circulating in the public domain and across certain media channels (The Botswana Guardian) and voice notes regarding the corruption allegations and the impact of the Botswana Oil Import Mandate on the petroleum industry. We assure our customers, partners, employees, and stakeholders that these allegations are entirely unfounded.

BOL wishes to unequivocally reaffirm its full compliance with the Public Procurement Act of 2021 and the accompanying Public Procurement Regulations of 2023. As a State-Owned Entity entrusted with strategic national responsibilities including ensuring the security of fuel supply and storage in Botswana, BOL is governed by these laws and operates under the highest standards of transparency, accountability and integrity in all its procurement and sourcing activities.

The Act and its Regulations mandate open competition, value for money procurement, and ethical conduct across all public entities. In line with these provisions, BOL has embedded the public procurement principles into its operations to ensure

- **Open and competitive bidding for all eligible suppliers.**
- **Strict adherence to evaluation criteria as prescribed by law;**
- **Transparent contract award procedures.**
- **Support for citizen-owned enterprises, in line with prescribed reservation schemes and the Citizen Empowerment Act.**
- **Independent oversight through the POU and external audits to ensure compliance and continuous improvement.**

All submissions are evaluated against clearly stipulated requirements and bidders are scored based on their demonstrated experience, qualifications and ability to execute the projects. In accordance with the Act the best evaluated qualifying bidder is awarded the tender.

Our procurement activities are subject to regular internal and external audits, and we remain fully cooperative with oversight bodies including the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA).

BOL as an entity of public interest is open for audits or investigations by oversight authorities on its procurement activities and tenders. In addition, BOL wishes to caution its stakeholders and the public about false statements being made and circulating across various media which are malicious and misleading.

We remain committed to upholding high ethical standards in conducting our business. If anyone is aware of any incidents of unethical business conduct or any wrongdoing associated with BOL, we encourage them to report the matter to the relevant authorities or call the BOL Ethics Hotline on the numbers below:

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Orange: 1144

Mascom: 71 119 372

SMS: 720144445

Email: botswanaoil@tip-offs.com

Website: www.tip-offs.com

About Botswana Oil Limited

Botswana Oil Limited (BOL) is a company incorporated in 2013 under the Companies Act (2008) wholly owned by the Government of Botswana through the Ministry of Minerals and Energy (MME).

The company was established to achieve Government's broader economic objectives of ensuring security of fuel supply and facilitating active citizen involvement in the petroleum industry. BOL is the Government's transformation agent charged with the responsibility of managing state-owned strategic fuel reserve facilities, managing strategic stocks as well as bulk storage and distribution.

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NIC TOLD TO STEP BACK

Concerns mount over presidential aide's conduct amid claims of overreach and interference in state affairs

LETLHGILE MPUANG

It has been almost a month since President Duma Gideon Boko's trusted aide, Nicolus Kgopotso, popularly known as Nic Matthews, was last seen publicly alongside the Head of State. Records show he last appeared as part of President Boko's entourage at the Global Expo in Gaborone on October 8, 2025. He was notably left behind during the President's recent trip to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

After Boko assumed office last year, Nic was controversially employed by the Directorate on Intelligence and Security (DIS), despite reportedly lacking the required qualifications and training. At the time, sources told *The Tuesday Grill* that President Boko had insisted on having Nic close by at all times.

More than a year later, insiders say the relationship between the President and his once-trusted aide has



soured. Sources within the Presidency reveal growing discomfort over Nic's conduct, with complaints pouring in from ministers, senior public officials, members of the Presidential Protection Unit, and even businesspeople.

The grievances reportedly range from issuing unauthorised instructions to the Presidential Protection Unit, raising security concerns, to blocking

politicians and business figures, including cabinet ministers, from accessing the President. Nic is also accused of attempting to obtain confidential information from the DIS and the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC).

In one incident, Nic allegedly sought details about a DCEC investigation involving Chinese businessman Li Gang, who is under probe for several multi-million pula

tenders awarded to Chinese contractors. According to insiders, Nic's attempts to access the information without clearance from President Boko or DIS Director General Peter Magosi angered the President.

"He has been asked to take some time away from the Presidential entourage while these issues are being addressed. It does not reflect well on the Presidency," said a source close to the developments. "The President did not take the complaints lightly. He has even asked senior members of the Botswana National Front (BNF) to engage with Nic on the matter."

This is reportedly not the first time Nic has been the subject of concern. Earlier this year, Lobatse MP Kamal Jacobs accused him of issuing threats after parliamentary questions were raised about matters linked to the Presidency.

In March, Jacobs told

Speaker of the National Assembly Dithapelo Keorapetse that he feared for his life after receiving what he described as threatening messages.

"I am very worried as I stand here today in front of you," Jacobs said at the time. "Yesterday there was a question that I put through to Parliament. Like you have been asking us, Mr. Speaker, if we slept well, unfortunately, I have been sleeping on the edge of my bed. I have been sent so many threatening messages by the Head of State and by his bodyguard. So what is to be done about that? Is my life in jeopardy? Should I go into exile now, Mr. Speaker?"

Nic did not respond to questions sent to him via WhatsApp yesterday regarding his absence from the Presidential detail. Attempts to reach DIS Director General Peter Magosi were also unsuccessful, as his phone rang unanswered.

BPF BECOMES A COMEDY OF POWER

Weekend congress ends in turmoil as rival factions battle for control of the Botswana Patriotic Front

KAGO JOROMEA

The Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) congress held over the weekend in Serowe turned chaotic as deep divisions within the party erupted into a full-blown leadership crisis. What was expected to be a routine gathering to strengthen unity and chart a clear political path instead exposed the widening rift among senior members.

Party President Mephato Reatile abruptly called off the congress, citing irregularities, and announced the expulsion of Lawrence Ookeditse and Baratiwa Mathoothe before dissolving the entire meeting.

Despite Reatile's order, a faction led by Ookeditse dismissed the president's decision and pressed ahead



with the congress. Members loyal to him argued that Reatile had no constitutional power to halt proceedings once delegates had convened.

"The congress is the supreme decision-making body," one

delegate remarked amid growing tension. Ignoring Reatile's directive, the group conducted elections, insisting their actions were legitimate and in line with the party's constitution. The defiance marked a

significant escalation in the BPF's internal struggle.

"Ke kopa re amoge Mephato Reatile boloko, ware talela. Leepetswe Lesedi ene as an MP was out of order yesterday. Butale was not a stupid, no one is bigger than the party," BPF councilor Atamelang Thaga said.

In the elections that followed, Lawrence Ookeditse was declared the new BPF president, with Lazarus Lekgoanyana voted Vice President, and Baratiwa Mathoothe retained his Chairperson seat. Dr. Kolaatamo Malefho was named Secretary General. The faction also terminated the life memberships of Mephato Reatile and Modiri Jojo Lucas, effectively expelling them from the party.

Addressing the media on Monday morning, Mephato Reatile insisted that he remains the legitimate leader of the BPF. He dismissed the Serowe gathering as unlawful and announced plans to hold an Extraordinary Congress in Jwaneng on February 24, 2026. "Ke santse ke tauotona ya BPF, ke utlwa gotwe nne ke emetse ditlhopho ko Serowe, I never contested," Reatile said, affirming his leadership and denouncing what he called an orchestrated coup.

The unfolding dispute has placed the BPF in a precarious position as both factions claim legitimacy. Political analysts warn that such divisions could erode the party's credibility and weaken its performance ahead of the 2029 elections.

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MOLAPISI REMOVES KGAFELA-MOKOKA, MOSWAANE FROM BPP NEC

- Molapisi wants Nono Kgafela ejected as SEMP because she has neglected BPP
- He has already relieved her of Chairperson position, want Sankoloba as SEMP
- Boko reluctant to instigate, Molapisi feels undermined. Fired Moswaane from NEC
- AP, BNF pressed him to pardon Minister Ntsima and he also presented his terms
- BPP's weekend congress postponed to next year, killed burgeoning Atamelang, Hunyepa, Bulawa lobby

KETUMILE RAMATITI

A widening rift has emerged between Botswana People's Party (BPP) President Motlatsi Molapisi and Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) leader Duma Boko over Molapisi's push to have Minister Nono Kgafela-Mokoka ejected from Cabinet and removed as Specially Elected Member of Parliament (SEMP).

The fallout has escalated to a point where Molapisi, who also serves as UDC Chairperson, is reportedly threatening to pull the BPP out of the coalition, accusing Boko of undermining him and failing to act on the matter.

According to BPP insiders, Molapisi has been unhappy with Kgafela-Mokoka since the 2024 general elections, accusing her of neglecting the party in favor of her ministerial responsibilities. Kgafela-Mokoka, who serves as Minister of Basic Education and Child Welfare, has since been stripped of her position as BPP Chairperson, effectively reducing her to an ordinary member of the party.

Sources within the BPP reveal that Mmatha Sankoloba is being lined up to replace Kgafela-Mokoka as Chairperson. Sankoloba, who currently serves as the party's spokesperson, is said to enjoy Molapisi's full confidence and is being groomed as his possible successor.

Molapisi is reportedly determined to have Kgafela-Mokoka removed from Parliament as well, arguing that the BPP's coalition slot in the August House should be filled by a more loyal representative. He is said to have proposed Sankoloba as her replacement and possibly as a future Cabinet



member.

However, Boko has resisted the move, preferring a slower and more diplomatic approach. Sources indicate that Boko wants Kgafela-Mokoka to be compensated with a diplomatic posting, but only after the Kgalagadi South by-election, when some diplomatic contracts are due to expire.

Molapisi, on the other hand, is reportedly infuriated by Boko's reluctance to act, particularly after the President allegedly ignored his calls following the BDF change-of-command ceremony (yesterday), where the two were expected to finalize the matter.

The disagreement comes against the backdrop of Molapisi's earlier decision to pardon Minister Tiroeaone Ntsima, who had been suspended from the BPP. According to insiders, leaders from the Alliance for Progressives (AP) and

Botswana National Front (BNF) pleaded with Molapisi to reinstate Ntsima, arguing that it was untenable for a sitting Cabinet Minister to remain suspended from his party.

Molapisi reportedly agreed to the pardon on one condition that Kgafela-Mokoka be removed from her parliamentary and ministerial positions and replaced by Sankoloba. That condition has yet to be fulfilled, deepening Molapisi's frustration with Boko's perceived inaction.

Within the BPP, Molapisi has been consolidating his authority, often unilaterally. He recently fired Minister Ignatius Mokwaledi Moswaane from the National Executive Committee (NEC) after the latter pushed for the elective congress to proceed as scheduled this coming weekend.

The congress, which was expected to be a critical

platform for internal leadership contests, has now been postponed to next year, ostensibly to coincide with the BPP's anniversary celebrations. Sources suggest that this postponement was engineered by Sankoloba, whom insiders describe as the president's "favorite protégé."

"Two weeks ago, Molapisi removed Minister Moswaane from the NEC after he insisted that the congress go on as planned and even offered to fund the party's 65th anniversary celebrations, citing the party's financial difficulties," a Francistown-based source said. "Molapisi viewed Moswaane and others as dissenters who may harbor ambitions to challenge his leadership, so he purged them."

Party insiders report that all auxiliary body congresses have been postponed without clear justification. Analysts say the move may be intended to weaken emerging factions and buy Molapisi time to maintain control over the party machinery.

One such faction, allegedly led by Assistant Minister of Transport Keoagile Atamelang (eyeing VP position), Basic Education Assistant Minister Justin Chipo Hunyepa (SG candidate), and Professor Philip Bulawa (for Presidency), had been quietly organizing to challenge Molapisi's dominance. The postponement, therefore, effectively neutralizes this Atamelang-Hunyepa-Bulawa lobby, which was beginning to gain traction within the party's rank and file.

The turmoil within the BPP threatens to spill over into the UDC, where coalition unity is already being tested. Molapisi's open

defiance of Boko, his efforts to micromanage Cabinet appointments, and his readiness to play hardball with coalition partners suggest a volatile period ahead for the opposition alliance. Asked about all these, Molapisi referred this reporter to Sankoloba.

Whether Boko can contain Molapisi's demands without fracturing the UDC remains to be seen. For now, the BPP leader appears determined to assert his will replacing perceived dissenters with loyalists, grooming a successor, and ensuring that the BPP's influence within the coalition reflects his personal authority.

BPP RESPONSE

1. No date had ever been set for a General Elective Congress; therefore, there has been no postponement.

2. The Central Committee, during its last sitting, resolved that action be taken in line with the Party Constitution—specifically the Code of Conduct, clause 4.5—which applies when a member fails to attend three consecutive meetings without a valid reason or notice. For further clarification, you may engage Cde Nono Mokoka-Kgafela.

3. Specially Elected Members of Parliament are appointed at the pleasure of the President of the Republic of Botswana. I have no influence over such appointments. However, I remain open and willing to serve wherever I may be deployed at the pleasure of my party.

4. My relationship with President Molapisi is one of deep respect. He is not only my Party President but also a father figure to me and I hold him in the highest regard.

5. I am not aware of any such reports and therefore cannot comment on that matter.

LEEROY SYSTEMS AND RAPID SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE SIGN STRATEGIC MOU

Theme: "Improving Workforce Excellence Through Public-Private Partnerships"

Yesterday, 30 October 2025, Leeroy Systems and the Rapid Skills Development Centre (RSDC) formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during a ceremony held in Gaborone.

The event marked the beginning of a new era of collaboration between the two institutions, built on a shared vision of strengthening cooperation and driving operational excellence through innovation and partnership.

The signing took place under the theme "Improving Workforce Excellence Through Public-Private Partnerships," reflecting the collective commitment by



both organisations to advance Botswana's development goals through effective collaboration between government institutions and the private sector.

"This partnership represents a significant step forward for both organisations," said ThebeRoy Johannes, Technical Director at Leeroy Systems.

"We are pleased to formalise a relationship that enhances collaboration, fosters innovation, and contributes to sustainable growth within Botswana's evolving industrial and institutional landscape."

Representatives from RSDC

expressed appreciation for the partnership, noting that it underscores the importance of synergy between the public and private sectors in strengthening institutional capacity and ensuring long-term impact.

The signing ceremony was attended by senior executives, government representatives, and invited stakeholders who applauded the two organisations for taking a proactive step toward promoting excellence and efficiency. Both parties reaffirmed their dedication to continued collaboration and to aligning their initiatives with Botswana's broader national development vision.

GREEN VISION FUELS BOTSWANA'S GROWTH

Leaders unite to link mining, innovation, and green industry for long term national prosperity.

KAGO JOROMEA

In a world shifting towards greener economies, Botswana is taking deliberate steps to secure a sustainable and diversified future. At the recent Botswana Mining Show, national and industry leaders came together to share ideas on how the country can use its mineral wealth as a foundation for inclusive growth and environmental balance. The gathering reflected a shared commitment to build an economy that thrives beyond extraction, one rooted in innovation, resilience, and opportunity for all citizens.

A central theme was how to balance progress with environmental realities. Tebogo "Tebby" Modisagape, Chairperson of the Botswana Green Building Council (BotGBC), said the country must act now, even as it transitions slowly to renewable energy. "We must move forward without waiting for the perfect energy scenario," she noted.

The council is leading efforts to make construction more sustainable through local innovation. One example is the use of fly ash as a byproduct of coal burning to create stronger, low-carbon materials. Modisagape said

this not only cuts waste but also encourages green business activity that keeps money and skills within Botswana. Her message was clear: change begins with practical action rooted in the country's current strengths.

That same idea of local empowerment resonated with Bokang Thitoyamore, Chief Executive Officer of Naledi Mining Services. He said Botswana must look beyond mining and focus on creating homegrown skills and industries. "The goal is not just to mine, but to manufacture, service, and innovate within our borders," he said.

Through its Nikitse Talent Platform, Naledi Mining Services is training Botswana for technical and leadership roles once held by foreign workers. The company also partners with small local businesses, drawing them into mining supply chains to ensure that citizens gain more value from the sector. Participants at the Mining Show agreed that such models can strengthen the economy, but warned that they must be backed by consistent policy and investment to last.

Debswana, the country's largest diamond producer, is also rethinking its role in national development. Chief Operations Officer Koolatotse



Koolatotse outlined a plan that looks beyond mining to include renewable energy projects, data-driven business ventures, and stronger support for local enterprises.

He said rising costs and depleting resources make innovation essential for survival. Debswana is exploring solar energy to power its operations and partnering with communities on projects that support sustainable livelihoods. The company's new direction marks a shift from dependence on diamonds toward a broader

contribution to national resilience.

Sustainability is also about fairness and accountability. Legal expert Lebogang George of AIA & Associates explained Botswana's mining laws, emphasizing that they are designed to ensure that citizens benefit directly from the nation's resources.

A key change is the 24 percent local ownership rule for new mining licenses. George said this measure ensures that wealth generated from the country's minerals circulates within its borders. "This is about giving Botswana a real stake in their own resources," she said, calling it a step toward long-term economic justice.

The sustainability drive extends to sectors that serve the mining industry. Sesiro Insurance highlighted how climate change has introduced new risks for miners and urged companies to prepare for "green risks." Meanwhile, Willie Coetzee of Vivo Energy presented new biodegradable lubricants designed to limit environmental damage from industrial machinery.

These initiatives show that sustainability is no longer confined to policy discussions—it is shaping how businesses operate daily. The message throughout the conference

was that every industry has a role to play in protecting Botswana's future.

Beyond mining, the conversation turned to how other sectors can help diversify the economy. Morunthi Kemorwale, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Gambling Authority, spoke of building a more balanced national economy that learns from both the successes and challenges of mining.

He said regulated gaming, if managed transparently, could support job creation and contribute revenue to national development. "We are learning from mining governance accountability, fairness, and community benefit to shape how we manage gaming," Kemorwale said. His remarks framed the gaming sector not as an isolated industry, but as part of a broader vision to spread opportunity and reduce economic dependence on a few sectors.

The Mining Show ended with a renewed sense of purpose. It was clear that sustainability is not a distant ideal—it is a daily responsibility that requires cooperation, creativity, and courage. Botswana's next chapter, built on this shared vision, aims to transform its natural wealth into a living legacy for generations to come.

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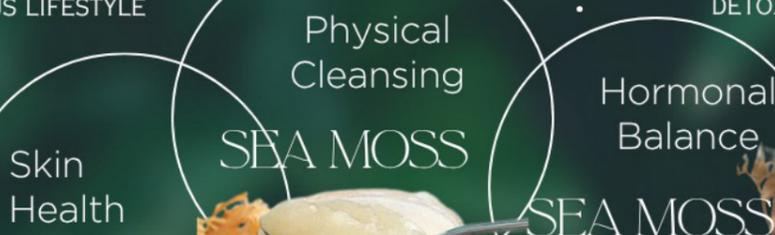


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THE BOTSWANA PATRIOTIC FRONT ON THE BRINK OF DARKNESS!!



KABELO MASVINGO KGWARAE - MHURIRO

As the sun sets on the political landscape of Botswana, a new chapter begins for the Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF), one that is fraught with uncertainty and peril. With the departure of their Patron, former President Lieutenant General Ian Khama, the BPF now finds itself at a crossroads. Khama, who has transitioned from the political arena to serve as Kgosikgolo of the Bagammangwato, has left a void that could spell doom for the party that once thrived under his guidance.

The recent elective Congress revealed the cracks within the BPF, as divisions and infighting surfaced, threatening the party's coherence and electoral viability. The specter of disunity looms large, casting a shadow over their aspirations for the 2029 General Election. If the BPF is to maintain its parliamentary presence, it must urgently reassess its strategies and alliances.

In the absence of Khama's formidable presence, the BPF must pivot and strengthen its

partnership with the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), the very coalition that now holds the reins of power in Botswana. This alliance, though fraught with challenges, may serve as the lifeline the BPF desperately needs. The time for hesitation is over; the party must act swiftly to solidify its standing within the UDC framework if it hopes to fend off the encroaching threat from the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), which is eager to reclaim lost ground. The internal rifts that have emerged post-Congress are not mere growing pains; they are a harbinger of electoral humiliation. Should the BPF squander even a moment in officially aligning with the UDC, it risks becoming a relic of political history.

The BDP, once a dominant force, is poised to capitalize on the BPF's discord, ready to reclaim constituencies that have slipped through their fingers. A united BPF could present a formidable challenge; a fractured one is an invitation for the BDP to rise from the ashes.

As the countdown to the 2029 elections begins, the influence of Ian Khama—once a powerful political asset—will inevitably wane. The electorate, while still holding memories of his leadership, is shifting its focus to the future. The BPF must recognize that nostalgia alone will not secure their electoral fate. They must redefine their identity and purpose in a landscape that has evolved beyond the shadow of their former leader. Go hedile jaanong ka dikgang tsa "Eseng mogo Kgosikgolo" ago thwahalweng.

In this precarious moment, the BPF stands at the brink of a dark period. The party must pull up its socks and embrace collaboration over conflict, forging a path forward that prioritizes unity and strategic alliance. The time for introspection and action is now; the people of Botswana are watching and their patience is finite. If the BPF is to uphold its legacy and aspirations, it must heed the call of the moment. The partnership with the UDC

could be their saving grace but divisions will serve only to hasten their decline. The future of the BPF hangs in the balance and it is up to its leaders to rise to the occasion. The people deserve a party that is united, focused and ready to serve; the question remains—will the BPF answer that call, or will they succumb to the darkness that lies ahead?

The Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) Congress results have unfolded a breathtaking drama that promises to reshape the party. The outgoing President, Mephato Reatile, who once held the reins of power, having also humiliated Biggie Butale to take the leadership of the party Mzilakazi style, has suffered an electoral humiliation that not only marks the end of his political career but also casts a long shadow over those who stood by him.

The Congress results, a resounding rejection of the status quo, have revealed a nation yearning for change and a new direction. The BPF members have spoken

and their voice echoes like a clarion call, signaling a turning point in the political journey of the BPF. As the sun sets on Reatile's presidency, it also heralds the twilight of an era characterized by questionable leadership and disregard for constitutional procedures.

However, the narrative is not only about the fall of a leader but also about the rise of a new order. The violence displayed by Member of Parliament Lesedi Leepetse, who was team Reatile, is a disturbing reflection of a deeper ending, it is a stark reminder that change comes with growing pains. Yet, it is also a testament to the resilience of our democratic institutions. As we navigate these challenging times, let us remember that we, the people, are the architects of our destiny. We have the power to shape our future, to choose leaders who uphold the rule of law and to build a nation that is truly for the people, by the people and of the people.

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INSIDE THE MIND OF A HACKER

BY: ABARICOM

The image of the hacker has changed considerably. What was once seen as a solitary activity carried out by individuals experimenting with computer systems has developed into an organised and professional operation. Today, many hackers work in coordinated groups with clearly defined functions such as coding, testing, and handling payments. For a growing number of people, this is full time work that resembles employment in any other technical field. *Ba tsoga hela ba tirong* like all of us. This goes to show how highly organized hackers are.

Cybercrime now operates with structure and planning. Tasks are distributed across specialised teams, and activity continues around the clock across different time zones. Automation tools, artificial intelligence and widely available hacking kits have made attacks easier to scale and replicate. They use the same technologies and tools we use to protect ourselves, to perform cybercrime.

In view of the foregoing, cybercrime has now become a topical issue across the world. Offenders and victims are rarely in the same country and crimes are often conducted through networks that span several regions. The result is a distributed, commercially motivated system that uses technology and coordination to exploit weaknesses wherever they exist.

In the early years of the internet, many hackers were motivated by curiosity or a desire to test systems. Today, the dominant motive is financial. Data has become a valuable commodity, traded and monetised through organised networks. Stolen identities, bank details and corporate information are bought and sold on encrypted platforms.

This makes Cybercrime attractive because it combines low physical risk with potentially high rewards. A single phishing attack, ransomware infection or system breach can yield returns far exceeding the effort required. This has created a steady shift from opportunistic hacking to systematic criminal enterprise.

Understanding Hacker Profiles and Motivations

Hackers are not a single, uniform group. Their actions and methods differ according to their motives, resources

and intended outcomes. Recognising these distinctions helps organisations and policymakers respond in ways that are proportional and effective, rather than applying one-size-fits-all solutions.

1. The Opportunist

Opportunists are the most common type of hacker. Their objective is usually financial gain, achieved through straightforward and repetitive methods such as phishing, fake websites, and malware attachments. They rely on exploiting human error or outdated systems rather than developing complex attacks. Many opportunistic attacks are automated, targeting large numbers of users and hoping that a small fraction will respond or click a malicious link.

2. The Insider

Insiders are individuals who already have authorised access to an organisation's systems. This could include employees, contractors or service providers. Their motivation may range from personal financial benefit to dissatisfaction with management or working conditions.

Insider threats are difficult to detect because the activity often appears legitimate until damage has occurred. Managing this risk requires strict access controls, auditing and clear accountability mechanisms.

3. The Ideologue

Ideological hackers, sometimes called "hacktivists," act to advance political, social or environmental causes. Their aim is typically disruption, awareness, or protest rather than financial profit. Tactics may include defacing websites, leaking documents or interrupting services to draw attention to an issue. Although the immediate impact may be symbolic, such actions can still compromise data integrity and public confidence.

4. The State Actor

State-sponsored hackers operate with strategic objectives. They focus on areas such as defence systems, energy grids, financial institutions, or sensitive government databases. Their actions are often coordinated, long-term, and well-funded. The goal is not only to collect intelligence but also to influence or destabilise other nations' operations. Responding to such threats requires international cooperation, intelligence sharing and strong national

cybersecurity frameworks.

5. The Researcher

Researchers or "ethical hackers" explore system vulnerabilities to improve security or gain professional recognition. While their activities may initially resemble intrusion, their purpose is to identify weaknesses before they are exploited. Many organisations now employ such professionals through structured "bug bounty" programmes that reward responsible disclosure.

Understanding these profiles allows organisations to design layered defences. Technical measures alone are insufficient. Policies, staff awareness, and clear reporting procedures are equally important. A financial institution, for example, might prioritise detecting insider misuse and phishing, while a government agency may focus on defending against state actors or ideological interference.

How Hackers Work

Most successful cyberattacks follow a sequence of steps. Treating this sequence as a process makes it easier to plan defences, allocate resources and identify where to detect and interrupt an attack.

1. Reconnaissance: mapping the target
Attackers begin by collecting information about an organisation or individual. This can be as simple as reading an organisation's website and staff LinkedIn profiles or as technical as harvesting DNS records, IP ranges and software versions. Public posts, job adverts and press releases can reveal useful details (email formats, technology vendors, contract partners).

Signals to watch for: unusual, repeated queries to your public-facing infrastructure or spear-phishing content that reflects detailed personal information. Mitigation: limit sensitive information in public profiles, apply information-sharing policies and monitor for unusual domain or certificate registrations that mimic yours.

2. Scanning: probing for weaknesses
With a target map in hand, attackers use tools to scan networks and systems for open ports, exposed services, outdated software, default credentials or misconfigured cloud storage. Automated scanners can sweep thousands of addresses quickly.

Signals: repeated failed logins, port-scan patterns, or traffic to uncommon services.

Mitigation: implement network segmentation, close unnecessary ports, run regular vulnerability scans internally and ensure asset inventories are accurate.

3. Exploitation: gaining initial access
This stage converts knowledge into entry. Methods include phishing emails that harvest credentials, exploiting unpatched software vulnerabilities or using stolen credentials bought elsewhere. Social engineering, manipulating people rather than systems, is common because it often bypasses technical controls.

Signals: new user accounts created outside normal processes, successful logins from unusual locations or devices, or unexplained privilege requests.

Mitigation: enforce multifactor authentication, run targeted phishing awareness training, and apply prompt patching of known vulnerabilities.

4. Privilege Escalation: moving laterally and broadening access
Once inside, attackers frequently seek higher privileges so they can access more systems or sensitive data. They may exploit local vulnerabilities, re-use credentials found on the machine or harvest tokens to impersonate services. Movement across the network allows access to backup servers, databases or administrative consoles.

Signals: unusual internal authentication patterns, access to systems that users do not normally use or elevated process activity.

Mitigation: apply the principle of least privilege, use role-based access control, monitor for abnormal lateral authentication, and employ endpoint detection and response (EDR) solutions.

5. Exfiltration: copying or encrypting data
With access to valuable material, attackers either copy data for sale or encrypt it to demand ransom. Exfiltration can be discrete, small, regular uploads to evade detection or large and obvious. In some cases, attackers stage data in public cloud storage they control before moving it offsite.

Signals: unusual outbound

data transfers, encrypted archives appearing on internal systems, or traffic to unfamiliar external IPs.

Mitigation: enforce data loss prevention controls, monitor outbound bandwidth and unusual DNS requests and restrict use of removable media and unsanctioned cloud services.

6. Covering Tracks: removing evidence and preparing persistence
After the primary objectives are achieved, attackers take steps to avoid discovery and to retain ongoing access. This includes deleting or manipulating logs, installing backdoors, creating covert user accounts or modifying system timestamps.

Signals: gaps in logging, modified log files, unexpected scheduled tasks or unknown persistent services.

Mitigation: centralise and protect logs (send them to an immutable, offsite log service), implement tamper-evident logging and conduct regular integrity checks and audits.

Prevention and Preparedness

The foundation of cybersecurity lies in routine discipline rather than advanced technology. Common preventive measures include:

- Using unique, complex passwords and avoiding reuse.
- Enabling two-factor authentication on all important accounts.
- Applying regular software updates and patches.
- Backing up critical data to offline or secure cloud storage.
- Training employees to identify suspicious emails and links.
- Establishing an incident-response plan to ensure quick containment.

These steps may appear basic, but they prevent the majority of attacks.

Cybercrime thrives on indifference and unpreparedness. Understanding how hackers operate allows societies to respond with precision rather than panic.

The hacker's mindset can be mirrored in our own approach to defence. Security is achieved by readiness, awareness and consistent application of best practice.

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LOADED FRIES

- **Chillie Cheese Fries**
Fries, Chilli, Cheese Sauce and Onions.
- **Bacon Ranch Fries**
Fries, Bacon, Onions, Ranch
- **Buffalo Chicken Fries**
Fries, Shredded chicken, Salsa, ranch

For 10 = P350

LOADED HOTDOGS

- **Bacon Ranch Dog**
Hot dog, Bun, Bacon bits, Cheese dressing.
- **Spicy Pickle Dog**
Hot dog, Bun, Sliced pickles, Mustard, Chopped onions
- **Classic Chillie Cheese Dog**
Hot dog, Bun, Chilli, Cheese sauce, Chopped onions

For 10 = P350

WINGS

- Buffalo Wings
- Honey garlic wings
- Spicy BBQ wings

For 10 = P400

DRUMSTICKS

- Spicy crispy drumsticks
- Bbq glazed drumsticks
- Lemon garlic and Herb drumsticks

For 10 = P400

(Create your own platter with our finger foods)

CORPORATE MENU

- Nuggets ● Wrap ● Wings ● Drumsticks ● Wedges ● Steak ● Sweet Corn
- Salad (Salsa, Coselaw, Greek Salad) ● Mini Hot Dogs

For 10 = P3000 | For 20 = P5800 | For 50 = P8800



Place Of Flavours



Place Of Flavours



BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT A CRITICAL MILESTONE FOR THE CONTINENT DON'T BE FOOLED BY LACK OF FAN FAIR

OSHINKA TSIANG

The inaugural African Biodiversity Summit got underway in Tlokweng on Sunday, bringing together technical experts across the biodiversity value chain from the continent and across the world. By Sunday evening on the first day of the summit, it was not clear as to which or how many heads of state and government had confirmed attendance. There was however a strong indication that the Zimbabwean President, Emerson Mnangagwa would come even if it's just for a day trip. According to Ministry of Environment and Tourism officials, invitations had been sent to quite a number of leaders across the continent but they were still awaiting confirmation. At the risk of stating the obvious, there are very strong indications that many may not come when you consider the logistical nightmare and preparations that go into hosting heads of state. The headache intensifies considerably when the number increases to even as few as five. Be that as it may it would be very easy to judge the success of this summit by the optics and downgrade its value to the number of presidents attending or in this case, their absence. That would be missing the point-to put it mildly.

The significance of this summit in the larger global

scheme of things is infinitely greater than the level of its participation by the continental apex leaders for several reasons. At a contextual level, this summit carries the DNA of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is part of the pieces of the puzzle that construct this grand globalist vision that seems to be inevitably unfolding before our very eyes. The theme itself is a key pointer, "Leveraging Biodiversity for Africa's Prosperity." It calls attention to the continental natural assets and their status, value and use. The summit seeks to map a path of how these assets can best be used hopefully for the development of Africa. The range of expertise attending the conference, from range ecologists, banking experts, economists, lawyers, engineers, policy development experts, land management experts, mining representatives, marine scientists etc, are clear indications that biodiversity is not just about animal and plant life, which we subconsciously tend to limit it to, but about the living earth. A very ambitious concept note for the summit reads, "Agenda 2063 envisions an Africa where our unique natural heritage including ecosystems, biodiversity, wildlife, and wild lands is protected, healthy, and valued, contributing to climate-resilient communities and thriving economies."

In reality, there are on the ground key players who are

working tirelessly to achieve this lofty goal. Which brings us to the second give away on the significance of this summit. Almost all of the 54 African Union members are represented as well as regional bodies. Inevitably major global conservation giants are represented at the summit. These are largely your-none-governmental organisations, who are dedicated to not only preserving the different kinds of species but to drive the narrative about such species. Their participation and support of this summit in significant numbers and at very high level tells you this summit is not just a talk shop. It is a defining moment in Africa's development.

The hosting of this summit in Botswana is no accident either. Being home to the world's largest number of elephants, having reserved 40 percent of land mass to conservation, being home to several UNESCO world heritage sites such as the Tsodilo Hills, the Okavango Delta, which is also a Ramsar site, the Makgadikgadi pans as well as hosting three Trans frontier Conservation Areas, Botswana is a living indicator of the green vision that the world is desperately trying to build.

The objectives of the summit are also very clear. They are to provide a political direction and support for Africa's biodiversity priorities, including Africa's engagement in global negotiations, to strengthen partnerships for the

effective implementation of continental and international biodiversity frameworks, and mobilization of financial and technical resources to support biodiversity conservation efforts across the continent. These are daunting tasks. But none more daunting than the last objective of mobilizing financial resources to support biodiversity.

The International Union of Nature Conservation, IUCN estimates that between US 600 and 800 billion is required annually to fund biodiversity globally. Africa gets about 6 percent of the available funding annually, leaving a deficit of between US 150 to 200 Billion to meet the Kunming-Montreal targets. These targets were agreed in 2022 by the United Nations with four over-arching goals which include, halting human induced extinction of threatened species and reducing the rate of extinction of all species by 2050, and fair sharing of the benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources to mention just two. There is a sense of urgency to meet these targets when one considers the time frame of 2030, and the prevailing stated risks to bio diversity.

We are told that more than one million species are at risk of extinction. The continent is said to be facing rising threats such as habitat conversion and land degradation, unsustainable exploration and poaching,

pollution and invasive species and impacts said to be brought about by climate change estimated to be one and half times faster than the global average in some regions. Simply put, funding cannot come fast enough. It is expected that the summit will explore mobilization of such funding through innovative concepts, some of which are already yielding some results elsewhere. But the main point is that the summit is expected to nail down concrete funding mechanisms and partnerships that will immediately resource biodiversity in the continent. Already by yesterday, the European Union announced on the side of the summit the Nature Africa initiative for the KAZA region-(Kavango, Zambezi Trans frontier Conservation Area). This is part of an estimated 1.4 Billion Euros committed to the continent for biodiversity funding support. Other partners are expected to announce their support during or after this summit,

The summit will conclude with a declaration. This will be a document that will be quoted in perpetuity to guide action on continental biodiversity decisions.

At face value, this summit may appear to be a low key affair with little fan fair that usually surrounds these engagements, understandably due to the current state of our economy, but it would be foolhardy to underestimate its import.

THE TUESDAY GRILL

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

At The Tuesday Grill, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of journalism and public accountability. We value feedback from our readers, partners, and the general public, and we take all complaints seriously as an opportunity to improve our editorial standards, service, and relationships.

2. PURPOSE

This policy outlines how members of the public can lodge complaints, how we will handle them, and the standards we uphold in addressing them in a fair, timely, and transparent manner.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to complaints relating to:

- Published content in The Tuesday Grill (print and digital)
- Editorial accuracy and fairness
- Ethical conduct or bias
- Breaches of privacy
- Conduct of The Tuesday Grill journalists or staff
- Advertising or sponsored content published by us

4. HOW TO LODGE A COMPLAINT

Complaints must be:

- Made in writing (email or letter)

- Include the complainant's full name and contact information
- Specify the article, edition, date, or broadcast in question
- Clearly describe the nature of the complaint and the remedy sought

CONTACT DETAILS:

Email: tuesdaygrill@gmail.com

Letlhogilejnmpuang@gmail.com

72309421/78710459

Subject line: "Complaint"

5. COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCESS

All complaints will be acknowledged within 3 working days.

A thorough internal review will be conducted, involving relevant editorial or management staff.

A formal response will be provided within 14 working days.

If more time is needed, we will inform the complainant of the delay and expected timeline.

6. RESOLUTION AND OUTCOME

If the complaint is upheld, we may take the following actions:

- Publish a correction, clarification, or apology

- Retract or amend the content
- Take internal disciplinary measures
- Offer a right of reply or further engagement
- If the complaint is not upheld, we will provide reasons in our response.

7. APPEALS

If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome, they may:

- Request a secondary review from The Tuesday Grill's Editor-in-Chief
- Escalate the matter to an external media ombudsman or regulatory body

8. CONFIDENTIALITY AND RECORD-KEEPING

All complaints will be treated with confidentiality. Records of complaints and their resolutions will be maintained for accountability and learning purposes.

9. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually or as necessary to reflect operational changes, legal requirements, or industry best practices.

Editor-in-Chief

The Tuesday Grill

Letlhogile Mpuang

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HOW TO DIGITALLY DETOX LIKE A PRO

By *Tshegofatso Shawe*

Let's be honest, our phones are basically our emotional support devices. They wake us up, tell us the weather, feed us gossip, and even tuck us in with one last scroll before bed. But lately, it feels like we're living inside them instead of with them. The endless notifications, the doom scrolling, the phantom vibrations, they all add up. So, how do we step back without feeling like we've disappeared off the face of the earth?

Welcome to the art of the **digital detox**; no retreats in the mountains required, no dramatic "I'm deleting all my apps!" speeches. Just you! Reclaiming your peace in a tech-soaked world.

Here's how to do it *like a pro*.

1. Admit You're Addicted (It's Fine, We All **Are**)

Before you can detox, you've got to be real with yourself. Most of us don't even realize how much we reach for our phones - its muscle memory. Start by tracking your screen time for a day or two. You'll be shocked. Seeing "7 hours, 36 minutes" pop up is humbling - but it's the awareness that kicks off change.

2. Curate, Don't **Eliminate**

A full detox doesn't mean throwing your phone into a river (though it's very tempting). It's about control. Start small!! Mute notifications that aren't urgent unfollow accounts that drain you, go D N D for 12 hours and move distracting apps off your home screen. Think of it like a closet clean-out: keep what sparks joy, delete what doesn't

'Sound simple on paper'.

3. **Scheduled Scrolls**

If you're online all the time, nothing feels special anymore. Try setting "scroll slots." Maybe you check socials in the morning and evening only. The in-between hours? That's your offline zone. You'll be surprised how much mental space opens up when you stop refreshing the feed every 10 minutes.

4. **Rediscover the Real World**

Remember hobbies? Conversations without emoji's? Let's bring back those

Try taking a walk without your phone or cooking without following a TikTok recipe from your favorite influence. Call a friend instead of texting. Go analog for a bit - read a physical book,

write something on paper, or just let your mind wander. You'll reconnect with the version of you

that existed before the algorithm took over.

5. **Make Technology Work for You**

Ironically, you can use tech to detox from tech. Set downtime limits, use focus modes, or download apps that block distractions. Your phone can actually help you take a break from itself. That's what we call poetic justice.

6. **Protect Your "Digital Quiet Hours"**

The pros don't just detox once, they make it routine. Pick a daily "no-screen" window, maybe the first hour after you wake up or the hour before bed. Guard it like your peace depends on it (because it does). You'll sleep better, think clearer, and probably smile more.

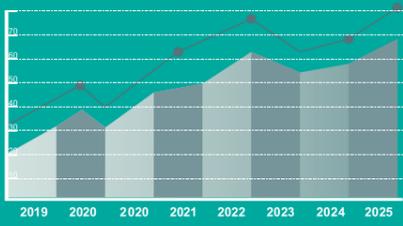
7. **Be Kind to Yourself**

You'll slip up, we all do. Digital detoxing isn't about perfection; it's about balance. If you fall down the rabbit hole of memes or trending reels, laugh, close the app, and move on. What matters is that you're aware, intentional, and learning to unplug when it counts.

Food for thought

We live in a hyper connected world, and disconnecting can feel like rebellion. But the truth is, a digital detox isn't about rejecting technology - it's about reclaiming your attention. The real flex? Being fully present in a world that's constantly trying to distract you. So, go ahead, power down, look up, and live a little offline. You might just find that life feels lighter when you're not scrolling through it.

*This article is part of the Tuesday Grill thought series powered by Mobibiz, a Nextel Mobile company. **Share your thoughts with Tshego at letstalk@mobibiz.org***



BUSINESS GRILL

04 NOVEMBER 2025, ISSUE 070

DEBSWANA POWERS DE BEERS GROWTH



*Jwaneng Mine drives De Beers' **38%** production surge as Botswana cements its position as the diamond group's global stronghold despite a challenging trading environment*

GRILL REPORTER

Botswana once again proved to be the backbone of De Beers Group's global operations, with the diamond giant recording a 38% year-on-year increase in production to 7.7 million carats in the third quarter of 2025, largely powered by higher output from its Jwaneng Mine.

According to the company's latest quarterly production update, Botswana contributed 6 million carats, representing a 51% jump compared to the same period last year. The surge was driven by Jwaneng operating at full capacity and

processing higher-grade ore ahead of planned extended maintenance in the final quarter of the year.

De Beers noted that production had been lower in the corresponding period in 2024 due to a month-long plant shutdown. Meanwhile, the Orapa Mine also resumed operations after completing scheduled maintenance in the second quarter, further strengthening Botswana's contribution to the company's overall performance.

Elsewhere, production in Namibia remained stable at 0.5 million carats, while South Africa recorded a 28% increase to 0.7 million carats following the processing of

higher-grade underground ore. In contrast, Canada's output declined by 15% to 0.5 million carats as the mine treated lower-grade ore during the period.

Despite the strong operational results, De Beers said the rough diamond trading environment remained challenging, as early signs of improved demand were offset by new US tariffs on diamond imports from India, the world's largest cutting and polishing hub.

However, the company welcomed a positive development in September when the US added natural diamonds to its Tariff Annex III list, making them

eligible for tariff exemptions for countries with trade agreements, a move that could support long-term recovery in the global diamond trade.

During the quarter, De Beers held two Sights, selling 5.7 million carats (4.6 million on a consolidated basis) for US\$700 million in revenue. This marks a significant rebound compared to one Sight held in Q3 2024, when sales amounted to 2.1 million carats (1.7 million consolidated) valued at US\$213 million.

The company reported an average realised price of US\$155 per carat, down 3% year-to-date, reflecting

weaker market prices offset slightly by stronger demand for high-value stones.

Looking ahead, De Beers said it will maintain its 2025 production guidance of between 20 and 23 million carats (100% basis) and expects unit costs to remain around US\$94 per carat.

"Botswana continues to play a critical role in our success, with Jwaneng and Orapa once again demonstrating operational excellence and resilience," De Beers stated.

The company said it will continue to monitor market conditions and adjust operations as necessary to ensure stable performance amid global headwinds.

A WOMAN NEEDS MULTIPLE STREAMS OF INCOME

Sharon Joan Seikanelo

Ladies, let us talk about something powerful, financial independence. In today's world, relying on just one source of income is like standing on one leg, it is possible, but it is not stable. Having multiple streams of income is not just about chasing money; it is about building security, freedom, and choice.

As young women, we wear many hats: students, professionals, mothers, dreamers, and hustlers. The truth is, one job or business might not always be enough to sustain our lifestyle or goals. Prices go up, life happens, and opportunities shift. That is



why learning how to diversify your income is one of the smartest things you can do for your future self.

You do not need to have millions to start. You can start small, sell something you love, learn a digital skill, start a side hustle online, create content, or invest in something that grows. What matters is that you start something that works for you, even if it is part-time. Over time, those small efforts can become life changing.

Having multiple income streams also gives you confidence. You stop depending fully on one person, one employer, or one paycheck. You move

from survival mode to choice mode. You can take risks, dream bigger, and walk away from things that do not serve you because you know you have other ways to earn.

Young ladies, the goal is not to be busy, the goal is to be wise. Build your name, build your skills, and build your income sources. Your future self will thank you for not putting all your eggs in one basket.

You are not just meant to survive you are meant to thrive. Be the woman who creates, earns, and inspires.

Sharon Joan Seikanelo is a Managing Director @Pawn Genius, Maticon insurance agency, Boss Home

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PRESS RELEASE

03 November 2025 | For Immediate Release

Bank Gaborone Champions SMME Growth Through Botswana's Economic Transformation Plan

Gaborone, Botswana – Bank Gaborone has reaffirmed its commitment to driving inclusive economic growth by supporting Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) through strategic alignment with the Botswana Economic Transformation Plan (BETP).

This announcement follows the successful hosting of the Insight & Impact Roundtable, where Bank Gaborone convened leading economic experts and policymakers to explore Botswana's shifting economic landscape and the role of the private sector in fostering resilience and innovation.

Delivering the keynote address, Mr. Nchidzi Chakalisa, Acting: Head Wholesale Banking at Bank Gaborone, emphasized the bank's role as a connector of positive, bringing together diverse voices and perspectives to spark ideas, foster resilience and co-create solutions that move our economy forward.

"SMMEs are the heartbeat of Botswana's economic future. Through the BETP, we see a clear roadmap to unlock new sectors, stimulate investment, and create meaningful jobs. Bank Gaborone is committed to being a bridge between ambition and access for these enterprises."

The BETP outlines a national strategy to diversify Botswana's economy beyond diamond revenues, focusing on private sector-led growth, digital transformation, and inclusive development. Bank Gaborone is aligning its efforts with these priorities by:

- Expanding access to finance for SMMEs through tailored lending solutions
- Investing in digital platforms to improve efficiency and reach
- Collaborating with government and development partners to deliver training and market access
- Creating platforms for dialogue to ensure SMME voices inform policy and practice

Ms. Olebile Makhupe, Managing Director of Bank Gaborone, highlighted the bank's long-term vision:

"As Botswana repositions its economy, the financial sector must be a catalyst not just a conduit for change. SMMEs have the potential to drive resilience, innovation, and inclusive prosperity. Globally, SMEs represent 90% of businesses and contribute more than 50% of employment, according to the World Bank. In Botswana, their contribution to GDP is between 14% -20%. They account for about 50% of formal employment, making them a critical driver of job creation and economic diversification. and many face challenges in accessing funding to start, grow, and sustain their businesses. This is where Bank Gaborone steps in to close the gap and unlock their full potential. "Our role is to empower them with the tools, networks, and capital they need to thrive." Botswana has a robust SME sector with real potential to boost recovery and long-term development. With the right financing, capacity-building, and partnerships, SMEs can help establish a more diverse and resilient economy.

The roundtable also featured insights from Dr. Keith Jefferis (EConsult Botswana), Mr. Buca Matenge (Enterprise & SME Development Specialist), Ms. Naledi Madala (Ministry of Finance), and Mr. Reetsang Taudi (Bank Gaborone), with moderation by Mr. Tsaone Raboloko, Chief Financial Officer at Bank Gaborone.

This initiative is part of Bank Gaborone's broader strategy to promote informed dialogue, enhance cross-sector collaboration, and support Botswana's economic transformation.



Ms. Olebile Makhupe, Managing Director of Bank Gaborone

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About Bank Gaborone

Bank Gaborone Limited is a member of diversified financial services holding company, Capricorn Group which is listed in the Namibian Stock Exchange. The Bank was awarded a banking license on the 1st of February 2006 by Bank of Botswana and commenced full retail banking business in September. Since its launch in Botswana, the bank has grown and now has a total of 12 branches and 24 automated machines across the country, of which 14 accept cash deposits. Through its talented staff, the bank provides great customer service through Retail Banking, SME Banking, Wholesale Banking and Treasury services amongst other. Some of the products and services offered are transactional banking, savings and investments, foreign exchange services and any other tailor-made financial services. The Customers can access most of these banking services 24/7/365 through the smart, secure and convenient electronic channels; Mobile Banking APP, e-Pula online banking and Tobetsa Mobile Banking Services. For more information visit www.bankgaborone.co.bw Bank's Facebook page, Instagram and LinkedIn.

WHY SMES MUST RETHINK EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

By Reason Nyamambi,
Managing Director – Old
Mutual Life Botswana

As Botswana's economy continues to diversify, one truth remains clear: people are every organisation's most valuable asset. Yet in many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), employee protection is still treated as optional rather than essential. That mindset no longer fits the realities of modern work.

"The world of work has changed. Employees today want more than a salary – they want stability, protection, and the confidence that their families are secure if the unexpected happens," says Reason Nyamambi, Managing Director of Old Mutual Life Botswana.

Globally, the World Health Organisation estimates that depression and anxiety cost the world economy US\$1 trillion each year in lost productivity, with 12 billion working days lost annually. About 15 per cent of working-age adults are living with a mental disorder. These figures highlight that financial insecurity, stress, and lack of protection are no longer personal problems, they are business risks.

For over 30 years, Old Mutual Life Botswana

has helped employers build financial resilience among their teams through innovative benefit solutions. As Nyamambi explains, "Our focus has always been on providing protection that fits the realities of Botswana's workforce – solutions that give peace of mind to both employers and employees."

A New Chapter for SMEs

To address the needs of smaller businesses, Old Mutual Life Botswana has introduced SME Staff Cover, a simplified group benefit that combines Group Life Assurance and Group Funeral Cover into a single, flexible package. The product allows SMEs, often the backbone of local communities, to offer their employees affordable, accessible cover that safeguards both lives and livelihoods.

"When a small business loses a valued employee, the impact is personal and financial," says Nyamambi. "Our SME Staff Cover helps employers protect their people and ensures that families are supported while the business continues to function."

Unlike traditional corporate schemes, SME Staff Cover is easy to administer, designed for lean operations, and scaled to fit local budgets. It delivers professional-

grade protection without unnecessary complexity, empowering small enterprises to provide benefits once reserved for larger firms.

Why Benefits Now Mean Business

Employee well-being is no longer a 'nice-to-have.' When staff feel secure, they perform better, remain loyal, and contribute more to long-term growth. Financial distress and uncertainty, on the other hand, erode focus and productivity.

Old Mutual Life Botswana complements its risk-cover solutions with financial-education initiatives such as **On The Money**, a programme that teaches practical money-management skills to help employees reduce debt, build savings, and plan for the future. "When people understand how to protect what they earn," Nyamambi adds, "they make better decisions for themselves, their families, and the organisations they serve."

Building Resilient People and Businesses

As Botswana's SMEs continue to create jobs and drive innovation, protecting the human capital behind that growth is critical. Redefining employee benefits is not only about compassion, it is about

competitiveness and sustainability.

"We're redefining benefits for the Botswana of today, making protection practical, personal, and inclusive," concludes Nyamambi. "When employees are protected, businesses thrive and together, we build a stronger Botswana."



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THE POWER OF A GOOD SCENT: HOW FRAGRANCE FUELS CONFIDENCE AND SUCCESS

LIFESTYLE REPORTER

There is a quiet kind of confidence that comes from smelling good, the kind that does not shout but speaks volumes. A good scent has the power to transform not only how others perceive you but how you feel about yourself. It is more than just a pleasant aroma; it is an invisible accessory that fuels confidence, shapes presence, and can even influence success.

When you smell good, you carry yourself differently. A spritz of your favorite perfume or cologne can shift your energy instantly, boosting your mood and sense of assurance. It is a small ritual that says, "I'm ready for the day." Research shows that pleasant scents can lower stress, enhance mood, and strengthen self-esteem, proving that confidence really can be bottled.

In the professional world, confidence is as valuable as skill. Walking into the office with a clean, fresh

scent can make you feel polished and prepared. It subtly signals self-discipline and attention to detail. When you feel good about yourself, you naturally project positivity and poise traits that make you stand out in meetings, interviews, and presentations.

A pleasant fragrance also makes people more comfortable around you. It is a nonverbal way of saying, "I care about how I present myself, and I respect those around me." That kind of presence leaves a lasting impression.

Whether you are meeting clients, leading a team, or networking, your scent can be part of your personal brand. It creates a sense of familiarity and memorability, people might not recall every word you said, but they will remember how you made them feel. Smelling good gives you that extra edge of confidence to walk into any room with certainty and grace.

Choosing the right fragrance is a personal

journey. It is not about trends or price tags; it is about identity. Opt for something that reflects who you are and fits the spaces you move in. Light, airy scents work beautifully in professional environments, while deeper, richer notes make a statement at events or evening engagements.

Once you find your signature scent, it becomes part of your story, your invisible confidence booster that reminds you of your own power.

In essence, fragrance is not just about smelling good, it is about feeling good. It's the final touch that boosts your mood, reinforces your confidence, and helps you show up as your best self in the workplace, in your business, and in every part of your life.

When you smell good, you carry yourself differently.



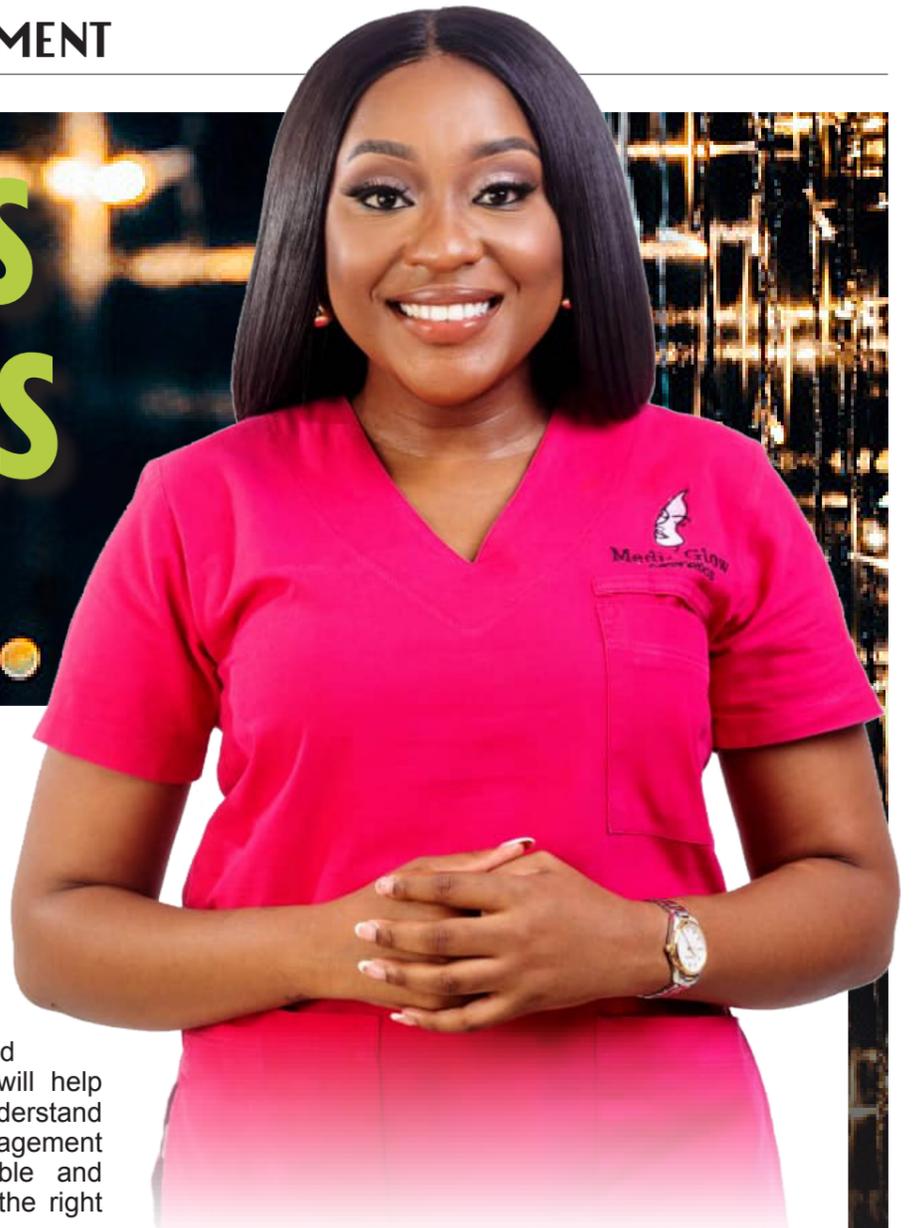
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'FROM CREATIVE CONTENT TO ACTIVE INTERACTION'

GLP-1 AGONISTS AND WEIGHT LOSS IN BOTSWANA



In recent years, new weight loss injections known as GLP-1 agonists, like Ozempic has gained global attention for helping people lose weight and control diabetes. These medicines work by copying a natural hormone that reduces appetite, slows digestion, and helps control blood sugar. When used with a healthy diet and exercise, they can lead to major weight loss.

Why They Matter

Obesity is rising fast in Botswana. About one in three women and one in ten men are obese, putting more people at risk of diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. For many,

lifestyle changes alone are not enough, so GLP-1 injections seem like a breakthrough.

Availability in Botswana

GLP-1 medicines are now available in Botswana through selected pharmacies and private clinics, offering convenient access to advanced, clinically proven weight management solutions. Their arrival marks an exciting step forward in modern health care, providing Botswana with more personalized and science-backed options for achieving their wellness goals.

What Botswana Can Do

Healthcare providers can continue educating

patients on the benefits of GLP-1 treatments while emphasizing healthy habits such as nutrition and regular exercise. Building awareness and trust around these therapies will help more people understand that weight management is both achievable and sustainable with the right medical support.

In Short

GLP-1 injections are transforming how weight loss and diabetes are treated worldwide. With their introduction in Botswana, individuals now have access to innovative,

evidence-based solutions designed to support long-term health and confidence.

Dr. Wedu Somolokae is a medical professional and entrepreneur, best known as founder of Medi Glow Aesthetics

Botswana.

**Contacts: www.mediglowaesthetics.com
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HAIRSTRANZ OPENS PREMIER BEAUTY STUDIO

Proudly 100% Motswana owned, the brand launches at Airport Junction, offering luxury beauty services in a modern, relaxing setting.

KAGO JOROMEA

Hairstranz has officially opened its doors at Airport Junction Shopping Centre, marking an exciting milestone for Botswana's beauty industry. The launch signals the rise of homegrown brands shaping the country's lifestyle and beauty scene, providing spaces where elegance meets personal care. Clients can now enjoy a full range of services, from wig installations and professional makeup to manicures, pedicures, and massages, all crafted to enhance confidence, style, and self-expression in a warm, contemporary environment that feels both inviting and luxurious.

Founded and managed by Janet Sopeletsile, who brings over ten years of experience in wig making and beauty, Hairstranz combines skill with creativity to deliver a premium experience. Sopeletsile has carefully designed the studio to offer tailored services that celebrate individuality. Her focus extends beyond beauty to wellness and empowerment, ensuring every client



leaves feeling confident and valued. With professional expertise and a welcoming atmosphere, Hairstranz is establishing itself as a go-to destination for luxury, locally-owned beauty experiences in Botswana's growing market.

"Driven by a passion for excellence, the studio blends luxury and relaxation in a warm, modern setting," Sopeletsile said. Hairstranz offers more than a standard beauty

appointment; each visit is an experience that nurtures self-care, style, and confidence. From soothing massages to precise wig installations, every service balances indulgence with professionalism. The interior, staff training, and service design reflect the brand's commitment to luxury, creating a space where clients can unwind, feel pampered, and leave refreshed, confident, and inspired.

The opening event drew former beauty queens and

fashionistas, who joined to celebrate the brand's vision and applaud its dedication to style, elegance, and wellness. Hairstranz combines expert techniques with a client-focused approach, redefining beauty standards while promoting

confidence and self-expression. The studio's philosophy prioritizes both appearance and well-being, ensuring visitors experience transformation alongside indulgence. With its locally-driven ambition, Hairstranz is poised to make a lasting mark on Botswana's luxury beauty landscape.



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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

General Mpho Churchill Mophuting

- Leading the Botswana Defence Force into a New Era



Batswana are filled with pride and excitement following the appointment of General Mpho Churchill Mophuting as the new Commander of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF). The news has been warmly received across the country, reflecting the nation's confidence and appreciation for his leadership.

General Mophuting steps into this important role with over three decades of dedicated service to Botswana. Throughout his career, he has served as Deputy Commander of the BDF, Head of Support Services, and Leader of the National Emergency Operations Centre during Botswana's COVID-19 response. He also represented our nation as Botswana's Ambassador to the United States of America.

An accomplished and respected professional, General Mophuting holds a Master of Science, a Master of Arts, and an MBA, and is a proud graduate of the U.S. National Defense University.

His appointment is a testament to his commitment, integrity, and outstanding record of service.

Congratulations, General Mpho Churchill Mophuting! Your leadership continues to inspire confidence and pride across the nation.



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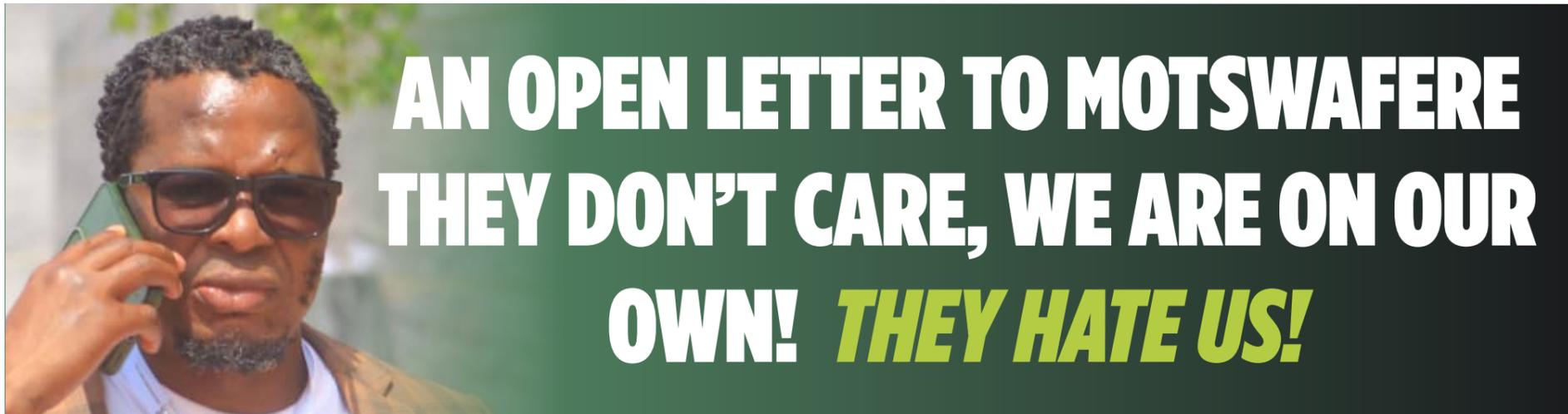
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RASINA WINFRED RASINA

**Bismillahir
Rahmanir Rahim!**

I am writing to you to let you know we love you. We the Creatives of this country love you and miss you. We think of you. We miss you. You represent us, you are us. We resonate with you. We are waiting for you to come back and do what you do best; being a Creative Arts Practitioner. And simply to be allowed to be who you are. To practice your Craft. But you can only practice your Craft when the environment is enabled. We are sadly dependent on non-entities to enable the environment to be conducive for the practitioners of Creative Arts to be able to practice our Craft more significantly and effectively. To be able to trade with what we have; our Arts! To be able to be employed by our only employer; The Arts!

Motswafere, the path you are travelling has been travelled by many of us, only in silence. It is a deep and painful path that only those of us in the Creative Space, your loved ones and your family can feel and understand. Quite often the society takes the lightly the pressures of living our lives in the public space. A lot is expected from us. We are expected not to feel. We are somehow expected to be superhuman. Yet the society

does not understand that our employer is the Arts! And for our employer to be able to afford us employment, the environment must be enabled by a national parent who is the Government. Sadly, the parent is neglectful, careless, irresponsible and in most instances suffers from severe dementia. The society then moves to label and judge us, to humiliate us when we are down. It is so because our parent is neglectful and has nothing in place to ensure that we don't face humiliation as we often do. We are on our own, we have always been. Hence, we should always be in unison. Those who love you are giving you the space to reconnect with yourself. We are waiting and praying for your significant recovery. Your recovery is our recovery.

Motswafere, when our Government, our parent, neglects us, does not understand our needs, or simply does not care, then we can only despair. Hence, we despair a lot, we deviate from that which should build us. We don't deviate by self-design; it becomes a default position. It is easier for those at the Government Enclave to put on suits and that metal flag they are always putting on, and a lie through their teeth that they care about us. But we all know that they are lying, they are excellent

at that. They don't care about us. They don't pay us. They refuse to pay us. They refuse to share the loot. Bloody thief! They only care about the numbers we pull to their rallies and associated events. That is what they call us; crowd pullers. And that is all what we are to them. Tools to be used at a time of need and be put back in the tool box when done with them. Or rather to be blunter; to them we are condoms to be used and discarded after satisfaction. You should always listen to the Minister of Finance expressing his love for the Arts. We don't eat love. We can't use love to pay rentals. Love does not fuel a car. Love does not buy clothes. Love does not put food on the table. Love is just some abstract word thrown around to confuse the willing. I am not a part of the willing. I am not confused.

Motswafere, we should continue to demand the State Theatre. to demand Rehabilitation Centers. To demand Creative Grants. To demand laws, regulations, and policies in favour of the Creative Arts. To demand Health Facilities that are friendly to the Creative Practitioners. I am done with being loved. It has led us to know where. Besides, we are not being loved, we are being used. It is utterly tiring.

We are tired of pretending. We don't like the way we are being treated. We can't be dependent on their personal preferences to become a part of the national development agenda. Motswafere, they lie to us through their ugly teeth without mercy. They don't care about us. They don't understand us. They don't care to understand us. They are just in us seeing a campaign tool. A lot that you discard when done with and recollect when a need arises. We are their afterthoughts. They think of us when they are being asked if there is any plan for us. When they are not being asked about us, they proceed with their ugly lives to our detriment. They only mention us when they want to be seen to know something about us. We are on our own, we have always been.

Motswafere, they only talk about us and come to briefly think about us only when we are dead. They take centre stage. We give them VIP treatment at our events hoping they will get to understand our needs. They never do. They just bring their concubines to finish our expensive beverages that we serve them with. We give them free tickets, free and secure parking and instruct our security and waiters to ensure their comfort. We spend money on them. They

take from us. They are takers. We give them VIP treatment even when we are dead. They attend our memorial services to be seen to care. Not that they care. To be seen to care. I thought of you Motswafere, and thought I should reach out. To tell you that we are waiting for the super star that you to come and do what you do best. We love you. **Allahur Akbar!**

Rasina Winfred Rasina
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The writer of this column (Rasina Winfred Rasina) is the Secretary General of Botswana Musicians Union (BOMU), Creative Director at Theatre for Development Botswana (TFD), Chairman at Sebaga Communications & Strategic Concepts and Chairman at Glam Shouts Events & Talent Management, Head of Secretariat at Associations of Botswana CreativeArts (ABOCA); but he writes herein in his personal capacity, and hence his views herein this column does not represent those of; Sebaga Communications & Strategic Concepts, Botswana Musicians Union (BOMU), Glam Shouts Events & Talent Management, Associations of Botswana Creative Arts (ABOCA) and, or, Theatre for Development Botswana (TFD).

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THE SAFE CORNER: BY BOYSON MOKONE

BEATING THE ODDS — A STORY OF SURVIVAL, FAITH, AND RESILIENCE BY KENEILWE KAISARA



From the quiet village of Maitengwe in Botswana, a young woman has turned her deepest struggles into a beacon of hope for others. Keneilwe Kaisara, 29, has emerged as a powerful voice for resilience and awareness through her newly published book, **Beating the Odds: My Diabetes Journey**. Beating the Odds: My Diabetes Journey, is far more than a book — it is her testimony, her truth, and her triumph.

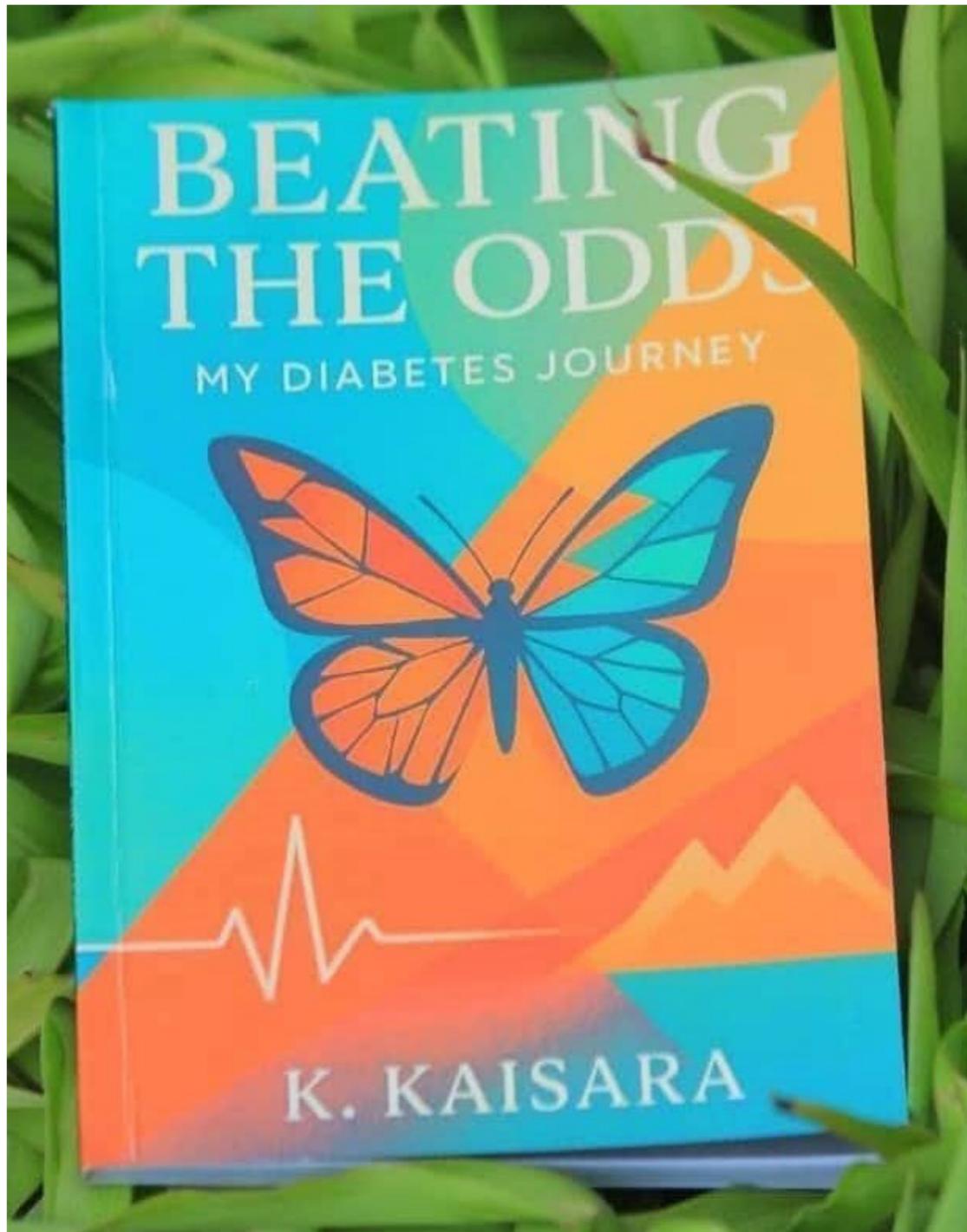
“Beating the Odds is my testimony — a story of survival, faith, and resilience. It reflects my tears, my prayers, and my victories,” she says with quiet strength.

Those few words capture years of silent battles fought behind closed doors — the countless nights of pain, the uncertainty of living with Type 1 diabetes, and the courage it took to face each new day with hope.

Diagnosed with **Type 1 diabetes** at a young age, Keneilwe’s life took a dramatic turn. What began as a painful and confusing battle against a chronic illness became a lifelong lesson in courage, discipline, and faith. For many Batswana, diabetes remains a silent yet growing epidemic — one that affects families, livelihoods, and emotional wellbeing. Through her story, Keneilwe brings a deeply personal face to this national health challenge.

“Living with a chronic condition taught me that life doesn’t always go as planned — but every challenge can shape you into something greater,” she shares with quiet conviction.

Keneilwe’s story is not simply about managing a chronic illness. It is about confronting fear with faith, transforming despair into determination, and finding purpose in pain. When she was first diagnosed, the news felt like a life sentence. Her days became filled



with medical routines — Novorapid during the day and Lantus at night, blood sugar monitoring, dietary restrictions, and the constant vigilance that comes with managing the disease. Yet in those moments of struggle, Keneilwe chose not to give up.

Her journey was far from easy. There were days when fatigue and depression seemed unbearable, when the daily routine of medication intake and strict routines felt overwhelming. Yet, Keneilwe refused to let diabetes define her. She turned inward, leaning on prayer and family support. Her faith became her lifeline — a steady reminder that

even in suffering, there can be strength. “Every morning I wake up knowing I have another chance to live, to fight, to tell someone else that they too can survive,” she reflects.

Beating the Odds is not merely a memoir — it is a message of hope, healing, and awareness. The book highlights the realities of living with diabetes, from managing blood sugar and maintaining emotional balance to coping with social misconceptions about the disease. Keneilwe writes not only to tell her story but also to educate and empower others to take diabetes seriously, seek help early, and live positively despite

the diagnosis. Through the book she extends her hand to others living with diabetes, encouraging them to see beyond the injections and hospital visits — to the possibility of a full and meaningful life. She reminds readers that with discipline, emotional support, and spiritual grounding, diabetes can be managed, and life can still be beautiful.

“This book is for everyone who has ever felt broken by life,” she says. “It’s a reminder that our scars can become symbols of strength.”

The book captures that spirit of resilience — how she refused to let diabetes silence her dreams or define her destiny. It speaks

of survival not as mere endurance, but as an act of courage. It reveals faith not as blind optimism, but as a daily choice to believe in healing, even when the body feels weak. And it celebrates victory not just in medical terms, but in reclaiming her joy, confidence, and purpose.

Keneilwe’s story comes at a crucial time. According to health experts, diabetes cases in Botswana continue to rise, often linked to lifestyle changes, poor diet, and lack of awareness. Her advocacy underscores the importance of regular medical check-ups, emotional support for patients, and open conversations about chronic illness. Her story also calls attention to the need for public awareness about diabetes in Botswana. Many people go undiagnosed until complications set in, while others suffer silently due to stigma or lack of understanding. Keneilwe’s openness breaks that silence. Her journey is both a mirror and a message — reflecting the realities of countless others while offering hope and education to families, caregivers, and communities.

To mark this milestone, Keneilwe will launch her book on **21st November 2025** at the **Stanbic Accelerate Incubator from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The event is more than a celebration — it’s a call to action for communities to unite in the fight against diabetes and to stand with those living with it.

As she prepares for the launch, Keneilwe reflects on her journey with gratitude. “No matter what life takes from you,” she says softly, “you can still rise again.”

Through her words, Keneilwe Kaisara reminds Botswana — and the world — that diabetes is not the end of life, but a beginning of courage, awareness, and purpose. Her story is a testament to human endurance and an invitation for others to turn their own pain into purpose.



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SITALE TAKES BNOC HELM

Tshepo Sitale has emerged as the new president of the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) after securing 20 votes at the Quadrennial General Assembly 2025. His nearest rival, Yarona Sharp, garnered nine votes, while Ookeditse Malesu received one. Sitale's victory marks a new era for the committee, one that he promises will be guided by teamwork, accountability, and a vision of elevating Botswana's sporting performance on the continental and global stage.

BFL, BTV SEAL P16 MILLION BROADCAST DEAL



ODIRILE BAKWALI

The Botswana Football League (BFL) has signed a landmark three-year broadcast partnership worth P16 million with the Department of Broadcasting Services (DBS), in a deal that is expected to transform both the financial and media landscape of local football.

The agreement, signed yesterday, will see state broadcaster BTV televise close to 60 BFL matches per season, offering local football fans unprecedented access to top-flight action across the country.

According to the BFL, the P16 million injection will go a long way in supporting the league's operational needs particularly the payment of match officials, which has

been a persistent challenge since last season. Referees have been vocal about delayed payments, and the new deal is expected to finally settle their outstanding dues.

"This partnership comes at a crucial time for the league," a BFL insider said. "Beyond the financial relief, it enhances the league's visibility and professionalism."

The partnership will also expand the league's reach and fan engagement. With games now available on the national broadcaster, Botswana will be able to follow their favourite teams more closely, while sponsors will benefit from improved exposure.

DBS officials expressed optimism that the collaboration will not only promote local sports

content but also encourage investment and pride in Botswana's sporting talent.

Powered by First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) as the league's headline sponsor, the BFL continues to position itself as a commercially viable and media-friendly competition with this latest partnership marking another milestone in its professionalization drive.