

# BathoPele

31 May 2026 | 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of 2026 | Ministry of Local Government & Traditional Affairs



**BOTSWANA**  
INVESTMENT  
& TRADE CENTRE  
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# EDITORIAL NOTE

Welcome to the May edition of Bathopele Newsletter, where we reflect on another month of meaningful engagement, policy progress, and community-centred development across Botswana. This edition highlights the Ministry's continued commitment to strengthening local governance, promoting inclusive development, and preserving Botswana's rich cultural heritage. From the benchmarking visit by the Angolan delegation on traditional leadership systems to strategic partnerships aimed at accelerating local economic development, the stories featured in this issue demonstrate the importance of collaboration in driving national progress. We also celebrate cultural identity and unity through coverage of the Wayeyi Cultural Festival in Gumare, which showcased the importance of preserving indigenous languages, traditions, and heritage for future generations. In addition, this edition captures ongoing efforts to transform Primary Health Care delivery through decentralisation and enhanced community participation, reaffirming Government's commitment to accessible and sustainable healthcare for all.

The newsletter further highlights initiatives focused on rural development, stakeholder

engagement with civil society and development partners, youth empowerment, education support, and programmes aimed at improving the welfare of vulnerable groups, including the elderly and children. As we continue to build stronger communities and responsive governance systems, we remain guided by the principles of inclusivity, partnership, accountability, and service to the people. We also take this opportunity to remind all citizens to actively participate in the Monthly Presidential Call to the National Clean-Up Campaign taking place across the country. Keeping our communities clean is a shared responsibility that contributes to public health, environmental sustainability, and national pride. Let us all play our part in creating cleaner, safer, and healthier environments for present and future generations. We extend our sincere appreciation to all contributors, stakeholders, and communities whose dedication and collaboration continue to shape Botswana's development journey. Happy reading!

Chandapiwa A.  
Baputaki





HIS EXCELLENCY FORMER PRESIDENT  
**FESTUS GONTEBANYE MOGAE**

1939 - 2026

The Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs joins the nation and the international community in mourning the passing of His Excellency, Former President Festus Gontebanye Mogae. Former President Mogae served Botswana with distinction, humility, and unwavering dedication. During his tenure as the Third President of the Republic of Botswana from 1998 to 2008, he championed prudent leadership, inclusive development, and people-centered governance that strengthened local authorities and improved the lives of countless Batswana. Under his administration, local government institutions were empowered to expand service delivery across the country through community development programmes, rural infrastructure projects, poverty eradication initiatives, social welfare services, and strengthened support for vulnerable communities. His leadership during the HIV/AIDS crisis demonstrated courage and compassion, as local authorities worked hand in hand with communities to provide care, support, and hope to those affected.

Former President Mogae firmly believed that sustainable national development begins within communities. His commitment to decentralisation, participatory governance, and the strengthening of district and local administration laid an enduring foundation for responsive and accountable local governance in Botswana. The Ministry further acknowledges his support for traditional leadership institutions and his appreciation of the important role played by Dikgosi in preserving Botswana's culture, unity, and social cohesion. The Ministry celebrates a legacy defined by integrity, discipline, wisdom, and selfless public service. His contribution to Botswana's democratic governance and socio-economic development will continue to inspire generations to come. The Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, extends deepest condolences to the Mogae family, relatives, friends, and the nation at large during this difficult time.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.



# FROM CITY PRIDE TO WORLD STAGE

In the lead-up to the World Athletics Relays, the Gaborone City Council (GCC) worked tirelessly to uplift the city's image, ensuring that visitors from across the globe were welcomed into a cleaner, brighter, and safer capital. Teams cleared waste, patched potholes, restored streetlights, and beautified public spaces a visible demonstration that preparation for the event was also an act of pride in Gaborone itself. As the Mayor noted, this was about more than readiness; it was about creating lasting improvements for residents and guests alike. Clean streets,

Safer roads, A greener Gaborone.

The effort paid off spectacularly. The Debswana World Athletics Relays not only showcased Botswana's sporting excellence with the men's 4x400 metres relay team storming to gold in a Championship Record time – but also elevated Gaborone's international profile as a capable host of world-class events. Athletes, officials, and fans from other countries expressed admiration for the city's hospitality and organization, while broadcasting and streaming reached an estimated audience of over 102 million people

worldwide. This global exposure boosted Botswana's tourism sector and energized the local economy, proving that investment in city pride and infrastructure translates into international recognition.

The combination of GCC's groundwork and Botswana's athletic triumphs has positioned Gaborone as a rising hub for global events. The city's ability to host with excellence, while simultaneously improving everyday life for its residents, underscores a powerful message: when Botswana prepares for the world, it uplifts itself.



# GOVERNMENT COMPLETES PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TRANSFER TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES CALLS FOR STAKEHOLDER-DRIVEN REFORMS

By Chandapiwa Baputaki

The Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Hon. Ketlhalofile F.C. Motshagwa, has announced a major policy shift in Botswana's health system, confirming that Primary Health Care (PHC) services have been transferred back to local government structures.

Speaking at a Primary Health Care Roundtable Dialogue in Gaborone in April, Minister Motshagwa said the reform, formalised under Government Notice No. 742 of November 2024, reassigns

responsibility for clinic services, public health, and community-based programmes from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs. The transition began in April 2025 and fully implemented in April 2026.

Minister Motshagwa said the restructuring is intended to improve efficiency, strengthen community-based service delivery, and restore closer links between health services and the populations they serve. He noted that Botswana previously transferred PHC services to the Ministry of Health in 2010, but

said performance outcomes had "not met expectations" since then.

He argued that decentralised health services had previously delivered stronger results, citing earlier models of home-based care, outreach services, and postnatal support delivered through local councils. He emphasised that PHC remains a cost-effective approach focused on prevention rather than hospital-based treatment of advanced conditions. Referencing global health frameworks, including the 1978 Alma-Ata Declaration and the 2018

Astana Declaration, Motshegwa reaffirmed PHC principles such as universal access, community participation, integrated services, and multisectoral cooperation.

He also called for stronger partnerships between government, development agencies, civil society, and traditional leadership in shaping Botswana's primary health care strategy. The Minister further urged participants to focus on practical implementation, accountability, and service delivery outcomes as Botswana embarks on the restructured PHC model.

In her welcome remarks, Acting Permanent Secretary Ms Tshepo C. Kebakile said the dialogue was intended to bring together stakeholders to share insights and guide implementation. She emphasized the role of participants in advising the "People's Ministry" on effective PHC delivery. Ms Kebakile said the meeting had drawn diverse stakeholders, including community and faith-based organizations, traditional healers, private health providers, multilateral agencies and representatives of the United States government.

The dialogue featured six thematic panel discussions covering service delivery, One Health, commodities and supplies, partnerships, community engagement and digitalization.



The Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Kethalefile F. C. Motshegwa, has reaffirmed Government's commitment to building an equitable, accessible, and resilient healthcare system in line with the theme One Botswana, One Health System: Solutions for Sustainable Healthcare.

Addressing delegates at the Botswana Doctors Union Annual General Meeting at Sir Ketumile Masire Hospital recently, Minister Motshegwa emphasised the need for unity of purpose, coherence in healthcare delivery, and sustainable outcomes. He noted that a fragmented system cannot deliver optimal results and highlighted the importance of strengthening primary healthcare, improving coordination across all levels of care, and ensuring equitable access for all citizens.

He reiterated that the revitalisation of Primary Health Care remains a central Government priority. The transfer of healthcare functions and personnel to local government

structures is intended to bring services closer to communities, enhance accountability, and improve health outcomes through integrated service delivery.

Minister Motshegwa explained that industrial relations center on dialogue over employment conditions to protect and advance workers' rights. He noted that effective engagement must also prioritize employee morale and motivation. He pointed that Botswana aims to lead the labour movement while recognizing the BDU for its vital role in advocacy for doctors rights, service delivery and saving lives. He further pointed that as dedicated professionals, doctors remain central to healthcare transformation under the Primary Health Care (PHC) mandate, adding that the BDU is a key partner as leaders in clinical care and custodians of limited resources. He indicated that the BDU AGM theme highlights a unified, prevention-focused approach that brings services closer to communities., adding that strong, results-oriented leadership must uphold employee

welfare, as health is essential to sustainable national development.

Minister Motshegwa called for continued cooperation among all stakeholders to advance a unified health system that delivers equitable, efficient, and sustainable healthcare for all citizens.

# UNDP ENGAGES GOVERNMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY



Minister of Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs Mr Kethlfile Motshegwe and Acting Permanent Secretary, Ms. Tshupo Kebakile with UNDP Resident Representative Lovita Ramguttee and delegates

By Boikobo Mantaga

*UNDP partners with Botswana to implement the Revised Rural Development Policy, 2025, focusing on youth empowerment, decentralisation, innovation, and sustainable livelihoods.*

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) paid a courtesy call in April on the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Kethlfile FC Motshegwa, to discuss support for implementing the newly adopted Revised National Policy for Rural Development, 2025 (RNPRD). The courtesy call was led by the UNDP Resident Representative Lovita Ramguttee.

with strong emphasis on youth empowerment, gender equality, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

Minister Motshegwa welcomed the partnership, noting its importance to the Ministry's work. He highlighted the role of Local Authorities in driving local empowerment and supporting the informal economy, which forms the backbone of district economies. He stressed that decentralisation is key to empowering local authorities to attract investment and advance rural development.

Responding, UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Ramguttee commended the adoption of the RNPRD, 2025 and expressed interest in its implementation. She

The policy outlines 14 thematic areas, including economic diversification, rural industrialisation, job creation, digital transformation, climate resilience, agriculture, and social inclusion. It aims to transform Botswana's rural areas into modern, economically vibrant, and self-sufficient communities,

## NATIONAL ORAL POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

### ROUND 1 COMPLETED

Re lebogela maikarabelo a Sechaba se a tsereng go netefatsa gore bana ba tsaya lerothodi

### ROUND 2 8 - 11 JUNE 26

LE KAMOSO!



emphasized the need to begin at grassroots level to effectively implement the policy. UNDP pledged support, particularly in youth empowerment and community capacity-building, as part of strengthening local governance.

Ms. Ramguttee

"implementation must begin at grassroots level to effectively deliver the policy."

On decentralisation, Ms. Ramguttee noted that while UNDP supported policy development, progress has been limited. She highlighted ongoing collaboration with other ministries, including initiatives on alternative energy over the past four years to promote sustainable livelihoods. She cited biogas projects as contributing to clean and safe environments. Ms. Ramguttee also outlined youth-focused initiatives, including programs targeting rural areas and efforts to localise innovation such as artificial intelligence to create jobs. Approximately 60 community innovation kgotlas are set to be transformed into hubs where young people can develop innovation skills. She further noted UNDP's work with indigenous communities to preserve culture and plans to roll out a disability-focused program.

Rural Development Council Director Ms Serufo Ntsabane highlighted the importance of skills development, suggesting Botswana could adopt practical training models seen in countries like Zimbabwe, where children learn trades early. She added that social development programs under the policy should enable beneficiaries to become self-reliant.

Minister Motshegwa reaffirmed government's commitment to tackling poverty, unemployment, and inequality through partnerships and reforms. He outlined plans to re-engineer local government for greater decentralisation, improve efficiency, and create a more business-friendly environment focused on results. Also in attendance were Acting Permanent Secretary Ms. Tshupo Kebakile, UNDP Project Manager Ms. Bonolo Mathiba, and Community Development Specialist Ms. Izumi

# BOTSWANA INVESTMENT & TRADE CENTRE

## STRENGTHENS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO DRIVE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

By Lydia Ditoro



Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Ms. Tshupo Kebakile

*BITC's new MoUs with local and tribal authorities establish a unified framework to boost investment, streamline land access, and empower communities for inclusive economic growth in Botswana.*

The Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) has formalised strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs (MLGTA), the Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA), and the Botswana Association of Tribal Land Authorities (BATLA) through the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). The agreements aim to accelerate investment, strengthen local economic development, and enhance community empowerment across Botswana. The MoUs follow a commitment made by the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr. Ketlhalefile F.C. Motshegwa, during an alignment visit to BITC earlier this year.



BITC Chief Executive Officer Mr. Keletsositse Olebile and Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Ms. Tshepo Kebakile

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Gaborone recently, BITC Chief Executive Officer Mr. Keletsositse Olebile underscored the importance of collaboration in delivering the organisation’s mandate. He noted that partnerships are essential enablers for delivering on investment promotion, business facilitation, and market access, and reaffirmed BITC’s commitment to unlocking domestic and international investment opportunities while empowering local economies.

Mr. Olebile highlighted the critical role of local authorities in linking national initiatives with grassroots opportunities. He noted that the partnerships will improve access to communities, strengthen district-level investment identification, and support locally produced goods for both domestic and export markets.

The agreements will also enhance coordination in land access, a crucial component of investment facilitation. Through collaboration with BATLA, BITC aims to streamline land allocation

processes and improve the overall investor experience. Mr. Olebile emphasised that the agreements are practical frameworks to be activated through joint implementation teams, with a focus on delivering tangible outcomes for investors, businesses, and communities.

Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Ms. Tshepo Kebakile, described the agreements as a milestone in advancing Botswana’s socio-economic transformation agenda. She highlighted that the partnership reflects a shared commitment to improving livelihoods and promoting inclusive economic growth, aligned with the 12<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan, Vision 2036, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Ms. Kebakile emphasised the importance of community-driven development, calling for greater focus on self-reliance, productivity, and competitiveness. She noted that the partnership comes at a critical time to address poverty and inequality and drive sustainable development. She underscored the need for inclusive growth, urging

stakeholders to prioritise economic participation for underserved groups, including persons with disabilities and communities in remote areas.

The partnership will support Local Economic Development initiatives, promote district-specific investment opportunities, and strengthen value chains to position Botswana as a competitive, diversified, private sector-led economy. BALA Chief Executive Officer Mr Steven Pheko reiterated the need for strengthening local economic development given the current financial constraints.

The signing of the MoUs marks a significant step toward formalising collaboration and establishing a structured framework for nationwide socio-economic development.

We assist both local and foreign investors

We help local businesses become exporters

We facilitate the business processes, making it easy for you to start

# MINISTER MOTSHEGWA engages Goo-Rantsono residents on Development programmes & reforms



Hon. Motshegwa addressing Goo-Rantsono residents

By - Boikobo Mantaga

*Minister Motshegwa engages Goo-Rantsono residents, unveiling reforms in health care, child grants, public works, and village development committees to drive inclusive community development and sustainable livelihoods.*

The Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhaefile F.C. Motshegwa, recently addressed residents of Goo-Rantsono Ward in Mankgwenyane, Molepolole, during a kgotla meeting where key ministry issues and development updates were discussed.

In his address, Minister Motshegwa provided updates on ministry

programmes, including the transition of Primary Health Care (PHC). He explained that the transition began in April 2025 and will be fully implemented by April 2026. Under this process, responsibilities for clinic services, public health, and community-based programmes are being transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, starting from November 2024. He emphasised that PHC remains a

cost-effective approach, focusing on prevention rather than treating advanced conditions in hospitals. He added that clinics, managed through District Councils, will serve as the first point of contact, bringing healthcare services closer to communities and improving access.

He also spoke about the rollout of the Child Grant programme, under which children aged 12 months and below will receive P300 monthly. He clarified that this initiative does not replace the provision of tsabana and malutu for children under five. He encouraged mothers to continue registering their children, assuring them that payments will be made in June 2026 and backdated to cover April and May. He explained that the delay is due to administrative processes aimed at ensuring smooth and effective implementation.

Minister Motshegwa also announced a major shift in government's approach to public works programmes, citing concerns over the effectiveness of the Ipelegeng Programme. He stated that the programme had not produced the desired results, largely due to the absence of proper assessment, monitoring, and evaluation, which limited evidence of improvements in participants' livelihoods.

He said the government has now transformed the initiative into the Ikageng Public Works Programme, aimed at delivering more meaningful and sustainable economic benefits for Batswana. Mr Motshegwa explained that the new programme will focus on skills development, equipping participants with practical abilities in areas such as tourism

and environmental management, agriculture, and the maintenance of public infrastructure, including schools and clinics. He said the shift is intended to create lasting opportunities and empower communities to improve their livelihoods.

The Minister further elaborated on the revised Village Development Committees (VDCs), describing them as key government structures tasked with driving local development through projects and initiatives that respond directly to community needs. He said these committees play a central role in ensuring that development is inclusive and aligned with national priorities, noting that each constituency is allocated P10 million annually for development. Mr Motshegwa emphasised that membership to VDCs will be selective, with a thorough vetting process to identify capable and committed individuals who can provide effective leadership. He added that VDCs are regarded as the “government at village level,” highlighting their responsibility to coordinate development efforts within communities.

Mr Motshegwa emphasised that government has a responsibility to care for vulnerable members of society, including children, people with disabilities, those affected by natural disasters, and the elderly. He also highlighted the introduction of the old age benefit programme for citizens aged 60 years and above. While the initial plan was to provide P1800, he explained that due to current economic challenges, the programme has started at P1400, with expectations of an increase once the economy improves.

# BOTSWANA AND ANGOLA

## Strengthen Traditional Governance Ties Through Benchmarking Visit



Kgosi Puso Gaborone of Batlokwa with Angolan delegates

*Botswana and Angola deepen regional ties as Angola benchmarks Botswana's traditional leadership and governance systems to strengthen its own institutions.*

By Lydia Daniel

Botswana recently welcomed an Angolan delegation on a three-day benchmarking visit centred on traditional leadership, customary justice, and governance systems. The engagement, organised by the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs through the Department of Tribal Administration, provided a platform for both countries to exchange knowledge and deepen regional cooperation within the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Acting Permanent Secretary Ms Tshupo Kebakile emphasised

that the visit reflected the longstanding relationship between Botswana and Angola and underscored the importance of shared learning among African nations. She reiterated Botswana's commitment to preserving and strengthening traditional leadership institutions, recognising their role in cultural preservation, social cohesion, and community governance.

Leading the Angolan delegation, Mr Albano Cufuna explained that Botswana was chosen for benchmarking due to its strong historical and cultural governance systems and the similarities shared between



Kgosi Malope of Bangwaketse with Angolian delegates

the two nations within the SADC region. He noted that Angola is preparing to further develop its own traditional leadership structures and sought to draw lessons from Botswana's experience.

Throughout the visit, the delegation engaged with several Dikgosi and government officials to gain deeper insight into Botswana's legal frameworks, policies, and practices governing Bogosi and customary justice. Director of Tribal Administration Mr Reuben Majeremane outlined the functions of Dikgosi, including administering customary justice, convening kgotla meetings, and supporting local development initiatives. He also revealed that the Bogosi Act is under review as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the institution.

The delegation began with courtesy calls to Kgosi Malope II in Kanye and Kgosi Puso Gaborone in Tlokweng. In Kanye, Kgosi Malope II explained that Botswana's Constitution formally recognises traditional

leadership and integrates it into national governance structures through Ntlo ya Dikgosi. He highlighted the advisory role of Dikgosi in Parliament and their ex officio membership in District Councils, which helps align traditional and local governance systems. He further explained the composition of Ntlo ya Dikgosi, noting that representation includes historically recognised tribes, elected representatives, and specially nominated members to ensure inclusivity for women and marginalised groups. Reforms have improved representation for communities such as the Basarwa.

On customary justice, Kgosi Malope II stressed that customary courts remain central to maintaining social harmony, handling most civil and minor criminal cases efficiently at kgotla level. Serious offences such as murder, rape, and corruption are referred to the formal judicial system.

In Tlokweng, Kgosi Puso Gaborone shared perspectives on the evolution of traditional leadership in peri-urban communities. He noted that Tlokweng's proximity to Gaborone has accelerated development while maintaining strong traditional governance structures. He reminded the delegation that the land on which Gaborone stands belongs to the Batlokwa community. Kgosi Puso Gaborone described Bogosi as Botswana's oldest governance institution, rooted in community life and self-reliance. Unlike in some countries where traditional systems were abolished after independence, Botswana preserved and integrated Bogosi into modern

governance. He emphasised the active roles of Dikgosi in land allocation, development planning, cultural preservation, and community welfare, and highlighted the kgotla as an inclusive platform for dialogue, consultation, and citizen participation.

The delegation concluded its visit in Molepolole with a courtesy call on Kgosi Kgari III of Bakwena. Kgosi Kgari III highlighted the vastness of Bakwena territory, stretching from Mogoditshane to the Kalahari Game Reserve, including Kang. He explained how Dikgosi work closely with government departments and noted that kgotla staff are government employees, demonstrating the integration of traditional leadership with state structures. He defined the kgotla as a central space for community engagement, serving both as a forum for public discussion and as a customary court for resolving disputes. He also shared the history of the Bakwena people and their leadership lineage dating back to Kgosi Sechele I.

The delegation also met District Commissioner Ms Segomotso Nkwane, who described Bogosi as an enduring pillar of Botswana's identity and governance system. She explained that traditional leadership remained respected and influential after independence, with Dikgosi continuing to play key roles in development planning and community mobilisation. As part of the visit, the delegation toured the Kgosi Sechele I Museum and its new facility, gaining further insight into the cultural heritage of the Bakwena people.

# WAYEYI CULTURAL FESTIVAL

## celebrates heritage and Unity in Gumare



Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs Hon. Ignatious Mokwaledi Moswaane giving a keynote address during the Wayeyi Cultural Festival

*The Wayeyi Cultural Festival in Gumare celebrated heritage, unity, and language preservation, blending vibrant performances with official recognition of the Wayeyi people's identity and legacy.*

By - Okavango District Council PR

The annual Wayeyi Cultural Festival was held in Gumare in April under the theme "Honoring Our Legacy and Embracing Tomorrow's Horizons," attracted scores of Wayeyi people from across Botswana, including the North-West and Boteti regions, as well as visitors from Namibia. The colourful celebration was attended by Assistant Minister of

Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Honorable Ignatious Mokwaledi Moswaane, alongside traditional leaders including Wayeyi chiefs from Botswana and Namibia.

In his opening remarks, Gumare Kgosi Moitshepi Molelwa welcomed guests and appreciated the presence of the assistant minister. He said the annual event is important in preserving and passing the Wayeyi

culture and traditions to younger generations, urging attendees to celebrate and enjoy the occasion. The festival was marked by vibrant cultural performances including traditional dances, poetry, contemporary dances, horse riding and guitar performances.

Locally handmade cultural items such as woven baskets were exhibited, while different books written in the Shiyeyi language were also displayed and sold. Attendees were informed that the translation of the Bible into Shiyeyi is progressing well, with all books already translated so far. Different speakers also honoured the life and legacy of the late Professor Lydia Nyathi Ramahobo for her contribution towards the promotion of indigenous languages in Botswana, including Shiyeyi.

Addressing the gathering, Hon. Moswaane described the event as a joyous occasion for the Wayeyi people to celebrate their identity and heritage. He urged the community to pay tribute to past generations who safeguarded their language, identity and dignity despite

“ Hon. Moswaane  
“This festival is not only a celebration, but also a commitment to unity, cultural preservation, and building a future that honours the legacy of our ancestors.” ”

challenges faced over the years. He commended the Wayeyi people for their commitment to preserving their culture and language, while also applauding the Kamanakao Association for its leadership and dedication in advancing the interests and unity of Wayeyi people in Botswana and Namibia.

Hon. Moswaane further stated that government continues to recognize and appreciate Botswana's diverse cultures and tribes, noting that policies have been introduced to strengthen the use of indigenous languages through radio and television broadcasting platforms to ensure no language is marginalized. He encouraged the gathering to view the festival not only as a celebration, but also as a commitment to unity, cultural preservation and building a future that honours the legacy of their ancestors.

Closing the event, Ngami Member of Parliament, Honorable Philemon Aaron thanked organisers, participants and all guests, including people from other tribes who attended in support of the celebration. Festivities continued throughout Saturday night as revellers celebrated Wayeyi culture through music, dance and traditional performances.

# MINISTER MOTSHEGWA OFFICIATES GAMALETE-BAGAKA-BA-PELE SERVICE DAY



Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs Hon. Ketlhalefile Motshegwa officiating at Gamalete Bagaka-Ba-Pele service day

By [Olebogang Binang](#)

The Minister Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Ketlhalefile Motshegwa highlighted the critical role that elders play in building a strong and united nation. Speaking at Gamalete-Bagaka-Ba-Pele Service Day held in Ramotswa this month, he stressed that honoring the elderly is a responsibility that should be upheld by all.

The Minister assured elders that the Ministry is committed to improving their welfare, including the provision of old-age pension to support their

daily needs. He acknowledged current economic challenges that have delayed pension increases but noted that efforts are ongoing and plans are also in place to enhance recreational and healthcare facilities for the elderly.

He mentioned that the Ministries are working hand in hand to support citizens through programmes such as Ikageng (formerly Ipelegeng), which aims at creating employment opportunities for Batswana. He emphasized that elders should be cared for and supported, rather than engaged in such labour-intensive programmes.

The Minister also noted that the Ministry now oversees primary healthcare, highlighting their responsibility to improve health facilities across communities. Councils were encouraged to develop community gym infrastructure, while Village Development Committees were urged to ensure access to fitness facilities in their wards.

He encouraged elders to maintain active lifestyles through regular exercise and healthy eating, underscoring the importance of staying physically fit. The Minister further expressed appreciation to the residents of Ramotswa for organizing such a meaningful and impactful event that appreciates their wisdom, guidance, and the strong values they instill within families and communities.





## Gesture of Appreciation marks **MS MOTHOBISO'S** retirement

The Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs recently shared a heartfelt moment of appreciation as staff gathered to honour Ms Boitshwarelo Mothobiso, who retired from public service on 31 December 2025 after 21 years of dedicated service as a Messenger.

The occasion was marked by a simple yet meaningful presentation of gifts, reflecting the Ministry's culture of gratitude and respect for its employees. The gathering served as a reminder of the importance of recognising all contributions, including those roles that often go unnoticed but are essential to the

smooth daily functioning of institutions.

During the farewell, colleagues expressed sincere appreciation for Ms Mothobiso's commitment and work ethic, wishing her a peaceful and fulfilling retirement. Their messages highlighted a shared understanding that every role within the public service plays a vital part in delivering government services to the nation.

As Ms Mothobiso embarks on a new chapter, her colleagues extend their best wishes for good health, happiness, and continued joy in retirement.



# CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES MET MINISTER MOTSHEGWA FOLLOWING AN INVITATION FOR A COURTESY CALL

By Lydia Daniel

*Civil society organisations and government reaffirmed collaboration to strengthen community engagement, preserve values, and ensure inclusive health and social development where no one is left behind.*

“ Hon. Motshegwa

“Such meetings strengthen stakeholder collaboration and engagement, helping foster closer relationships between government and civil society in advancing community engagement within modern governance.” ”

The Botswana Christian Health & AIDS Intervention Program (BOCHAIP) and the Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA) leadership paid a courtesy call to the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Honourable Ketlhalefile FC Motshegwa, earlier last month following the recently concluded Primary Health

Care Services Roundtable. The meeting aimed to reiterate the government’s commitment to collaborating with and supporting civil society organisations to ensure that “no one is left behind.”

Minister Motshegwa explained that such meetings strengthen stakeholder collaboration and engagement. He noted that these

interactions help foster closer relationships between government and civil society, particularly in advancing community engagement within modern governance.

The Minister reaffirmed the government's respect for Bogosi and traditional leadership. He expressed concern about moral degeneration and emphasised the aspiration to nurture a Motswana who embodies strong values and respect. He called for a review of socialisation processes, highlighting the need to better understand and profile families in development planning.

“ BONELA Director, Ms. Cindy Kelemi:

“Civil society organisations, like the Ministry, are people-centred; we serve as a voice for the communities we work with and bring expertise in grassroots mobilisation.”

”

The two civil society organisations presented an overview of their mandates and highlighted their alignment with the Ministry's objectives. Responding to the Minister, BONELA Director Ms Cindy Kelemi noted that civil society organisations, like the Ministry, are people-centred. She explained that BONELA focuses on promoting the rights of marginalised groups and serves as a voice for the communities it works with. Ms Kelemi outlined the organisation's achievements and expressed appreciation for the Minister's openness to public engagement.

She encouraged the Ministry to leverage civil society expertise in community engagement, noting that such organisations are well-versed in grassroots mobilisation.

She cited efforts to reduce gender-based violence through targeted messaging shared via community structures such as metshelo. Ms Kelemi also highlighted the importance of established platforms like Parent-Teacher Associations and Village Development Committees, stressing the need to map and understand community composition. Reflecting on the COVID-19 response, she recalled how communities stepped in to provide churches and halls as quarantine facilities when government resources were strained, emphasising the importance of involving civil society from the outset.

“ BOCHAIP CEO, Ms. Lorato Mphusu:

“Our mission is to ensure that faith does not hinder access to health services, and involving pastors in every village could help reduce the burden of disease.”

”

For her part, BOCHAIP CEO Ms Lorato Mphusu explained that the organisation has operated for nearly 30 years, with a mission to ensure that faith does not hinder access to health services. She expressed the organisation's desire to partner at the household level, noting that not everyone seeks care at health facilities when in need.

Ms Mphusu highlighted BOCHAIP's expertise in diagnosis, treatment, screening, and health education. She noted that their teams are trained in effective communication to engage diverse communities. However, she raised concerns about the abrupt withdrawal of funding from the United States of America, which forced the organisation to refer some patients back to already overburdened public facilities.

She advocated for the inclusion of faith leaders in the health sector, suggesting that involving pastors in every village could help reduce the burden of disease. BOCHAIP also proposed the recruitment of community health workers already within their system. Both BONELA and BOCHAIP acknowledged the financial challenges currently facing the government and emphasised the need for targeted and efficient resource allocation. They called for increased involvement and engagement going forward, particularly in community-led monitoring of services.

Minister Motshengwa was accompanied by the Deputy Permanent Secretary for Social Development, Mr Kabo D. Moseki, and the Director of Primary Health Care, Dr Gobusaone Morupisi, who underscored the importance of engaging civil society as an integral part of the community.



## BOOK DONATION MARKS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK DAY CELEBRATION IN OLD -NALEDI

By- Lydia Daniel

*"Books are gateways to knowledge, imagination, and opportunity—and every child deserves access to them."*

The Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, F.C. Motshengwa, officiated at a book donation early April at Tshwaragano Primary School in commemoration of International Children's Book Day. The event underscored Government's commitment to improving access to quality education and promoting a culture of reading among learners across the country.

Receiving the donation of 20 boxes, Minister Motshengwa emphasized that the initiative reflects a broader national goal to ensure that all children have access to essential learning materials. He noted that books are fundamental tools for

teaching and learning, enhancing comprehension, supporting curriculum delivery, and cultivating a lifelong love for reading.

The Minister stated that the objective of the initiative is multi-faceted, focusing not only on the provision of books but also on empowering children through knowledge, imagination, and opportunity. He highlighted that the initiative promotes literacy and encourages a reading culture among learners, noting that children who read are better equipped to learn and become empowered individuals.

Minister Motshengwa further indicated that the donation aims to bridge resource gaps in underserved communities such

as Old Naledi. He explained that the selection of Tshwaragano Primary School was informed by its socio-economic context, as part of efforts to address inequalities within the education system and ensure that no learner is left behind.

He called on communities, stakeholders, and individuals to take an active role in supporting education initiatives, encouraging them to initiate similar contributions within their own communities rather than relying solely on government efforts. Reaffirming his Ministry's mandate, Minister Motshengwa highlighted the importance of providing conducive learning environments for both learners and teachers. He pledged continued support in infrastructure development, including the refurbishment of school facilities and the provision of adequate resources and personnel. He further emphasized Government's commitment to ensuring that all schools have access to functional libraries, noting that where such facilities do not exist, efforts will be made to establish them.

The initiative also strengthens partnerships between Government, communities, and stakeholders in advancing the national education agenda. Addressing the learners, he encouraged them to make full use of the donated books by treating them with care, reading widely, and using them as a gateway to knowledge, imagination, and opportunity, under the guidance of their teachers who continue to nurture their development

# INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF



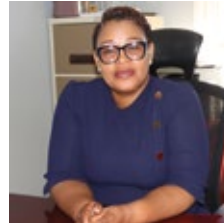
**Ms Neo Kgomotso Diwanga**

**Manager Finance and Development**



**Mr Mphaphi Ndubo**

**Chief internal Auditor**  
Secondment from Ministry of Finance-Department of Internal Audit



**Ms Tshireletso Dichekanyar**

**Principal Public Relations Officer I.** Transfer in from Attorney General's Chambers



**Ms Marina Makabe**

**Executive Secretary - DPS, Finance & Dev.** Transfer from Mogoditsane-Thamaga District



**Ms Dineo Polelo**

**Executive Secretary - DPS, Projects.** Transfer from MCWBE



**Dimpho Bagosi**

**Senior Admin Officer**  
Transfer in from Tribal Administration



**Ms Motlalepula Kenosi**

**Principal Administration Officer - Accounts.** Transfer from Phikwe Town Council



**Ms Banyana Moatshe**

**Primary Health Care**  
Transfer in from Chobe District



**Mr Juna T. Mpodu**

**Primary Health Care**  
Transfer in from Princess Health Care



**Ms Segametsi David**

**Procurement Officer I**  
Transfer from National Assembly



**Ms Lydia Tlhongbotho**

**Public Relations Officer I**  
Transfer in from Ministry of justice and correctional services



**Ms Kaone Keoboetse**

**Internal Auditor I**  
Secondment from Ministry of Finance



**Ms Fiona Nako Baboloki**

**Internal Auditor,** Transfer in from Department of Administration of Justice



**Mr Nichodimas Cooper**

**Khoena Desk Officer-Senior Community Development Officer-RADP Khoena Empowerment Programme**



**Ms Bonolo Makaba**

**Records Officer**  
First Appointment



**Mr Humprey Baolene**

**Safety, Health and Environmental**  
Temporary Officer



# SELEBI PHIKWETOWN COUNCIL JOINED THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY IN COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' DAY

By Clara Tumedi

The Department of Fire & Emergency Services gathered this morning under the theme “Understanding the Fire Tetrahedron: A Comprehensive Guide,” honouring the bravery and dedication of firefighters who continue to serve under challenging and often dangerous conditions. In his welcome remarks, Deputy Town Clerk (Development), Mr. Omphile Mosweu, applauded firefighters for their unwavering commitment, noting that their work goes far beyond extinguishing fires. He emphasized that firefighters operate in high-risk environments, yet remain steadfast in restoring order

during emergencies and providing reassurance to communities in their most difficult moments. Delivering the keynote address, His Worship the Mayor, Oageng Makgosa, reflected on the numerous hazards firefighters face in the line of duty, including falling debris, collapsing structures, and explosions that may result in severe injuries. He urged members of the community to always express gratitude to firefighters whenever they see them, recognizing their selfless dedication to saving lives and protecting property. The commemoration served as a reminder of the critical role firefighters play in safeguarding the community and the importance of continued support and appreciation for their service.



Selibe Phikwe Town Council Mayor, His Worship Oageng Makgosa

# FAMILY BUILDING CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES WITH OVER 4,000 CHANGE MAKERS TRAINED

By Tabona Ndoli

**F**amily Building Campaign Concludes with Over 4,000 Change Makers Trained  
By Tabona Ndoli  
The 14-day Family Building Campaign has successfully concluded, with 4,169 participants trained as change makers to promote strong and healthy families. Assistant Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Hon Ignatius Moswaane, emphasized that families are the foundation of the nation, where values of love, respect, and discipline are nurtured. He encouraged participants to practice open and respectful communication,

noting its importance in resolving conflicts and strengthening relationships. His Worship the Mayor, Hon Oageng Makgosa, commended the partnership between Selebi Phikwe Town Council and Healthy Families Foundation for positively impacting the community through knowledge sharing and empowerment. Ms Ashley Thaba emphasized a solution oriented approach to challenges and the importance of open communication in resolving family and social issues. She encouraged participants to apply the lessons learned, noting that shared testimonies reflect



Mr and Mrs Thaba

the campaign's positive impact and transformation in many lives. The campaign recorded impactful testimonies from participants. Ms. Magdeline Joseph shared that the training helped her rediscover love, improve communication, and reflect on personal growth. Ms. Neo Nchoko highlighted how she overcame anger rooted in

her upbringing and strengthened her marriage through better communication and appreciation. Mr. Sesupo Samuel acknowledged positive changes in his marriage following the sessions. Ms. Popo Buka expressed gratitude for finding healing, self-love, and freedom after overcoming a difficult past. Ms. Nelly Musevenzo shared her journey of healing from a toxic relationship, noting that she now feels empowered and no longer controlled by anger. Overall, the Family Building Campaign has left a lasting impact, equipping participants with the tools to build stronger families and contribute positively to the development of the nation.



# CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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 Private Bag 0032 Tsabong Tel: 6540591 Fax: 6540408	 Private Bag 11 Mochudi Tel: 5777411 Fax: 5777216	 Private Bag 005 Molepolole Tel: 5922100 Fax: 5920209	 Private Bag 006 Gumare Tel: 6874040 Fax: 6874199
 Private Bag 004 Masunga Tel: 2489242 Fax: 2489290	 Private Bag SOW1 Sowa Tel: 6213440 Fax: 6213425	 Private Bag 002 Kanye Tel: 5445700 Fax: 5440103	 Private Bag 006 Mogoditshane Tel: 3105615 Fax: 3105617
 Private Bag 002 Ramotswa Tel: 5381200 Fax: 5390201	 Private Bag 12 Hukuntsi Tel: 6510288 Fax: 6510244	 Private Bag 006 Tutume Tel: 2987232 Fax: 2987533	 Private Bag 01 Jwaneng Tel: 5880303 Fax: 5882609
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 Private Bag 05 Goodhope Tel: 5404183 Fax: 5404157	 Private Bag 0013 Bobonong Tel: 2619284 Fax: 2619283	 Private Bag T12 Tonota Tel: 2484248 Fax: 2484520	 Private Bag 1 Maun Tel: 6860241 Fax: 6860029
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