

Newsletter



**FORGING THE
FUTURE: BOTSWANA
AND SOUTH
AFRICA REINFORCE
COOPERATION**

**SERVING PRESIDENT MOGAE – A
LIFETIME OF LEARNING**





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OUR VISION

Improved quality life for all.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To promote good governance through effective leadership and coordination of Government policies and programmes for sustainable development and improved quality of life.

Foreword

Welcome to the Official Newsletter of the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security.

This newsletter serves as an essential platform for the Ministry to communicate effectively, inclusively, and transparently. By engaging a diverse range of stakeholders and utilising multiple communication channels, we reaffirm our commitment to educating the public, strengthening trust and visibility, promoting national security, along with community participation and engagement.

In this edition, we highlight our communications activities from April to May 2026. The Ministry for State President, Defence, and Security has been particularly active during this season, marked by a series of high-level meetings. These discussions have been crucial in enhancing both our internal and external communications. We hosted numerous national bilateral meetings with Zimbabwe, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of South Africa.

The primary focus of these meetings was to reaffirm and strengthen our diplomatic relationships, emphasising collaboration on security and defence matters, among other topics. Our objective was not only to solidify these partnerships but also to strategise on effective ways to meet the development needs of our respective citizens more efficiently.

By sharing insights and exploring areas of mutual interest, we aimed to establish a robust framework for ongoing dialogue and cooperation. This proactive approach underscores our commitment to fostering an environment that prioritises national development while ensuring the safety and security of our communities.

We also paid tribute to the late former third President of the Republic of Botswana, His Excellency Festus Gontebanye Mogae, who exemplified fatherhood and statesmanship, dedicating himself tirelessly to the governance, democracy, and development of the lives of Botswana. We laid this son of the soil to rest on Saturday, 16th May 2026, in Gaborone.

We are committed to offering insights into how the Government operates from the viewpoint of the Apex Ministry, which oversees the Presidency, Defence, and Security sectors. We hope our readers find this information enlightening.

Samma Tabudi-Motlhagodi

**Chief Public Relations Officer
Ministry for State President, Defence and Security**



FORGING THE FUTURE: BOTSWANA AND SOUTH AFRICA REINFORCE COOPERATION

By: Khumiso Setshogo

The 6th Session of the Botswana–South Africa Bi-National Commission (BNC) concluded successfully in Gaborone, Botswana, reaffirming the strong diplomatic and economic ties between the two neighbouring countries. The Commission was officially opened on May 21st, 2026, by co-chairs President Cyril Ramaphosa and President Duma Gideon Boko, following a Ministerial Meeting held on May 20th, 2026, and Senior Officials’ meetings conducted from May 17th to 19th, 2026.

During his two-day State Visit, at the invitation of President Boko, President Ramaphosa toured the Botswana Vaccine Institute as both nations explored opportunities to deepen cooperation in agriculture and food security. In welcoming President Ramaphosa, President Boko described the visit as a confirmation of the enduring friendship, solidarity, and strategic partnership shared by Botswana and South Africa. **“Botswana and South Africa share far more than a common border; we are bound by a shared history, deep cultural ties, intertwined economies, and a collective aspiration for peace, prosperity, and dignity for our peoples,”** said President Boko. He further noted that the 6th BNC Session reflects the shared commitment of both countries to strengthen collaboration in pursuit of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development.

In his remarks, President Ramaphosa commended Botswana for its longstanding commitment on various fronts, including support during South Africa’s anti-apartheid struggle, and called for stronger African and global cooperation to promote peace, stability, and development across the continent.





At the conclusion of the Session, the two Presidents acknowledged that there are 28 bilateral legal instruments currently under implementation and welcomed the signing of four (4) additional bilateral instruments:

- 1. Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on the Joint Management of Water Quality and Aquatic Invasive Species in the Upper Limpopo River Basin.**
- 2. Agreement on the Coordination of Aeronautical Search and Rescue Services.**
- 3. Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Energy.**
- 4. Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on Cooperation in the Field of Correctional and Prison Services.**

Ministers and officials were directed by the two Heads of State to establish a Coordination and Implementation Committee to accelerate the execution of agreed programs and projects, ensuring the timely implementation of agreements under the BNC framework. .

Both countries pledged to improve coordination and resolution of consular matters affecting both nations, as well as enhancing cooperation in migration management, border management, defence, and security.

Other key areas of cooperation identified during the Commission include:

- Trade and investment**
- Agriculture and food security**
- Energy and renewable energy**
- Mining and mineral beneficiation**
- Infrastructure development**
- Water security**

Overall, the Bi-National Commission was regarded as an important platform for strengthening bilateral relations, advancing regional integration, and promoting sustainable economic growth for the benefit of both nations. The next Mid-Term Review will be hosted by the Republic of South Africa in May 2027.



BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE SENIOR OFFICERS' STRATEGIC CONFERENCE

By: Idah Boy

The Botswana Defence Force (BDF) 21st Senior Officers' Strategic Conference was officially opened by the President of the Republic of Botswana Advocate Duma Gideon Boko who is also the Commander-in-Chief of all the Armed forces recently at Sir Seretse Khama Barracks.

Held under the theme, **“Maintaining a Capable and Cost-Effective Defence Force Under Fiscal Constraints,”** the annual conference serves as a crucial platform through which the BDF reviews its strategic direction, realigns its priorities with government policies, and strengthens institutional effectiveness in support of national security objectives.

President Duma Boko commended the BDF leadership for convening this critical forum and applauded their commitment, determination, and resilience despite prevailing fiscal constraints.

The President stated that the government has prioritised the development of a comprehensive National Security Strategy, a coherent framework intended to ensure whole-of-government coordination, strategic foresight, and national resilience in an increasingly unpredictable world. Addressing the issue of corruption, President Boko emphasised that corruption must never be tolerated within the Botswana Defence Force, warning that it erodes operational readiness, weakens morale, undermines public trust, and ultimately poses a threat to national security.

On the welfare of the BDF personnel, the President said he is aware of the accommodation challenges within the BDF and that the Government remains committed to pursuing sustainable housing solutions, including Bonno National Housing Programme. The President also noted that the government is committed to improving conditions of service and strengthening pension systems because those who dedicate their lives to serving the Republic deserve dignity, both during service and in retirement.

He further encouraged senior officers attending the conference to produce practical, implementable, and measurable outcomes. This also include actionable strategies capable of sustaining operational readiness, institutional excellence, and long-term strategic resilience.



MINISTER MOHWASA BRIEFS MEDIA ON PARLIAMENTARY LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS FROM THE LAST PARLIAMENTARY SESSION

By: Idah Boy

The Minister for State President, Defence and Security Honourable Moeti C. Mohwasa, briefed the media on the government's legislative business from the last parliamentary session. Minister Mohwasa highlighted that a budget proposal for the 2026/2027 financial year which was presented by His Honour the Vice President and Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe, was followed by the ministers' outlining proposals for their respective portfolios, after which the budget was allocated approximately one week before the end of March.

Minister Mohwasa stated that as a new government in office, they had to review and update laws and policies to ensure they remain relevant to the national development agenda, as well as to emerging regional and international issues that require government adjustment and compliance. He emphasized that, in renewing these laws and policies, the government would not lose sight of the principles of the UDC, noting that it is a human rights-centric government.

The Minister further indicated that during the first session of Parliament, six bills were submitted for consideration, while 17 bills were submitted during the second session. He expressed satisfaction with progress and noted that they are looking forward to the July session, during which further amendments to laws are expected.

Among the bills and policies passed or processed were the Appropriation Bill, Supplementary Appropriation Bill, Income Tax Bill, Customs Amendment Bill, Value Added Tax Bill, Tax Administration Bill, National Registration Bill, Stock, Bonds and Treasury Bills (Amendment), Cinematograph Bill, Constitutional Review, Public Service Bill, Deeds Registry Bill, National Agricultural Policy, National Policy on Rural Development, and the Botswana National Youth Policy.

The Minister added that since the UDC took office in November 2024, it has successfully processed 51 bills and seven policies through government.



| SERVING PRESIDENT MOGAE – A LIFETIME OF LEARNING

By Onkutlwile Tirelo



An Interview with Mr. Omphile Rhee Hetanang, Senior Private Secretary to President Festus Mogae (2016–2026)

Interviewer: **Vicky Tirelo (PRO)**

Interviewee: **Omphile Rhee Hetanang**

Vicky Tirelo: Mr. Hetanang, thank you for taking the time to share your experiences. To begin, how did your professional relationship with former President Festus Mogae start?

Omphile Hetanang: Thank you, Vicky. My association with President Mogae began in 2015 while I was serving as Deputy Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Botswana to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. At the time, President Mogae had been appointed by IGAD as the Peace Monitor for the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan. I had the privilege of supporting him in that important assignment, and what started as a professional engagement gradually evolved into a close working relationship that lasted until his passing.

Vicky Tirelo: What was it like working with President Mogae during the South Sudan peace process?

Omphile Hetanang: It was one of the most demanding and rewarding experiences of my career. President Mogae assembled a small advisory team from Botswana, including the late Ambassador M.J. Legwaila and



myself. We relocated to Juba, South Sudan, to support the implementation of the peace agreement through the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC).

Working in such a complex environment exposed me to leadership and diplomacy at the highest level. President Mogae approached every assignment with seriousness, discipline, and a deep commitment to peace. He taught us that public service is not about position or prestige, but about responsibility and accountability.

Vicky Tirelo: What lessons stand out most from your years of working with him?

Omphile Hetanang: Discipline was perhaps the greatest lesson. President Mogae expected excellence in everything. He did not tolerate laziness or half-prepared work. Every recommendation presented to him had to be supported by facts, research, and sound analysis.

He was always exceptionally well-informed. It was never enough to simply offer an opinion. You had to explain why you held that view and provide evidence to support it. That taught me the value of preparation, intellectual honesty, and professional rigor.

I remember occasions when he would knock on my apartment door well past midnight to discuss an issue ahead of an engagement the following day. He left nothing to chance and expected those around him to maintain the same standard.



Vicky Tirelo: Many people describe President Mogae as a strong leader. How did he relate to his advisors?

Omphile Hetanang: One of his most admirable qualities was that he welcomed differing opinions. He did not want advisors who simply agreed with him. In fact, he respected individuals who could challenge his views respectfully and provide alternative perspectives backed by sound reasoning.

That taught me that effective leadership thrives on honest counsel. He encouraged independent thinking and constructive debate. For someone serving in an advisory role, that was an invaluable lesson.

Vicky Tirelo: Beyond his professional attributes, what kind of person was President Mogae?

Omphile Hetanang: He was humility personified. Despite his status as a former Head of State and internationally respected statesman, he remained remarkably modest and approachable.

Whether in Botswana or abroad, people constantly approached him for photographs, handshakes, or brief conversations. He always made time for them. There was never any unnecessary display of authority or insistence on privilege. He carried himself with quiet confidence rooted in values rather than power.

His humility influenced how I managed access to him. I always tried to ensure that people seeking an audience with him were treated with respect and consideration because that was the example he set.

Vicky Tirelo: Did your relationship extend beyond official duties?

Omphile Hetanang: Very much so. Over the years, our professional relationship developed into a bond founded on deep trust and mutual respect. He became more than a principal; he became a mentor and father figure.

President Mogae took a genuine interest in my wellbeing and that of my family. He loved my children dearly and always looked forward to their visits. He was also supportive of my personal aspirations, including my passion for marathon running. What stood out was that he never imposed pressure but always encouraged growth and self-improvement.

Vicky Tirelo: What leadership qualities did you observe in him that continue to inspire you today?

Omphile Hetanang: President Mogae was thoughtful, measured, and principled. He listened carefully before making decisions. He reflected deeply and spoke deliberately.

Watching him navigate complex diplomatic and conflict-resolution challenges taught me the importance of patience, tact, and strategic thinking. He remained calm under pressure and was always guided by reason rather than emotion.

His commitment to integrity, excellence, and service continues to influence how I approach both my professional responsibilities and my personal life.

Vicky Tirelo: Looking back on ten years of service alongside him, what would you say was the greatest gift you received from the experience?

Omphile Hetanang: The greatest gift was not proximity to power, but proximity to values. Through daily observation, I learned discipline, humility, integrity, intellectual honesty, accountability, and commitment to excellence.

Those lessons continue to shape my outlook on leadership, public service, and life itself. They are principles I intend to carry forward for the rest of my life. My hope is that everyone whose life was touched by President Mogae, directly or indirectly, draws inspiration from the example he set.

Vicky Tirelo: Finally, how would you like President Mogae to be remembered?

Omphile Hetanang: As a statesman of integrity, a servant leader, a humble patriot, and a man whose wisdom and values left an indelible mark on Botswana, Africa, and the world. For me personally, he will always be remembered as a mentor, teacher, and father figure whose lessons will endure long after his passing.

Vicky Tirelo: Thank you, Mr. Hetanang, for sharing these remarkable reflections.

Omphile Hetanang: Thank you. It has been an honour to share these memories and celebrate the life of an extraordinary leader.



PRESIDENT DUMA GIDEON BOKO EXPANDS DIPLOMATIC OUTREACH ACROSS AFRICA



President Advocate Duma Boko and President Dr Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe.



President Advocate Duma Boko and President Dr. William Samoei Ruto of Kenya.



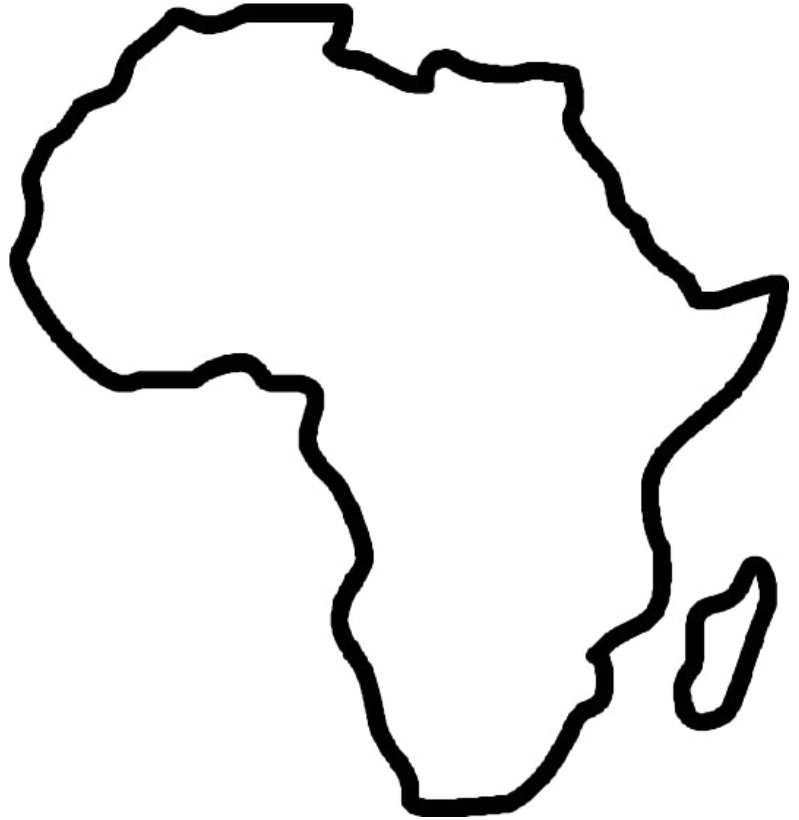
Advocate Duma Boko and President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço of Angola.



President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and President Advocate Duma Boko.



President Matamela C. Ramaphosa of South Africa and President Advocate Duma Boko.



President Duma Gideon Boko of Botswana has indeed stepped up his diplomatic outreach, meeting with fellow African leaders to reinforce Botswana's role in continental cooperation. His recent engagements were centered on regional integration, youth empowerment, and economic diversification, aligning Botswana more closely with the broader African agenda.



Botswana President Adv. Duma Boko and Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah maintain a close bilateral relationship, collaborating on regional security, trade, and cross-border infrastructure.

BOTSWANA CHAMPIONS GLOBAL PEACE THROUGH STRATEGIC ARMS CONTROL COLLABORATION

By: Charles K. Motlhabani



Ag. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry For State President, Defence and Security Mr. Jeremiah Makgwa with the German Ambassador, Gabriela Bennemann.

Botswana continues to strengthen its position as a responsible and influential player in international peace and security efforts, highlighted by the successful hosting of the EU Arms Trade Treaty Outreach Project IV (ATT OP IV) National Assistance Workshop. This high-level event took place from April 15th to 17th, 2026, at the Protea Hotel in Gaborone, bringing together government officials, international experts, and strategic partners committed to advancing global arms control and non-proliferation initiatives.

The workshop focused on enhancing Botswana's national capacity for arms trade regulation and supporting the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, which aims to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. This initiative further underscores Botswana's dedication to promoting responsible governance, regional stability, and international cooperation.

During the official opening remarks, the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security, Mr. Jeremiah Makgwa, reaffirmed Botswana's unwavering commitment to international peace and security frameworks. He expressed gratitude to the government of Germany, the European Union, and the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA) for their ongoing technical and strategic support. Mr. Makgwa emphasized that the workshop was more than just a technical engagement; it served as a strategic platform aimed at strengthening national capabilities and preparing Botswana for the future growth of its defence industry.





“This workshop is not merely a technical exercise; it is a platform for building the knowledge, skills, and cooperation necessary to implement our legislation effectively and prepare for the growth of Botswana’s defense industry,” he stated. He also acknowledged the important contributions of regional partners, particularly experts from South Africa, in enhancing collaborative approaches to arms control and regulatory implementation across the region.

German Ambassador Gabriela Bennemann also addressed the delegates, emphasizing Germany’s strong commitment to supporting the Arms Trade Treaty and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). She noted that the Arms Trade Treaty remains a critical global instrument for regulating the conventional arms trade, combating illicit trafficking, preventing the diversion of weapons, and advancing peace, stability, and human security worldwide. Ambassador Bennemann commended Botswana for making significant progress in strengthening its national arms trade control systems and noted that Botswana’s

achievements have opened doors for expanded collaboration with Germany and other international partners, particularly in non-proliferation and strategic security governance. With the support of the German Federal Foreign Office and BAFA, Botswana continues to benefit from technical assistance, specialized training, and capacity-building initiatives designed to enhance institutional effectiveness and compliance with international standards

The workshop serves as a powerful demonstration of effective international cooperation, uniting Botswana, Germany, and the European Union under a shared commitment to responsible trade regulation, enhanced security governance, and the promotion of lasting global peace. Botswana’s proactive engagement in such initiatives fortifies its reputation as a trusted and forward-looking partner in international diplomacy and security.



GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATORS ENCOURAGED TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION

By: Samma Tabudi-Motlhagodi

Government communicators have been encouraged to embrace collaboration and teamwork as essential elements for effectively delivering government programs, policies, and initiatives to the nation. This message was conveyed by the Minister for State President Defence, and Security, Hon. Moeti Caesar Mohwasa, during a meeting with spokespersons at the Office of the President earlier this month.

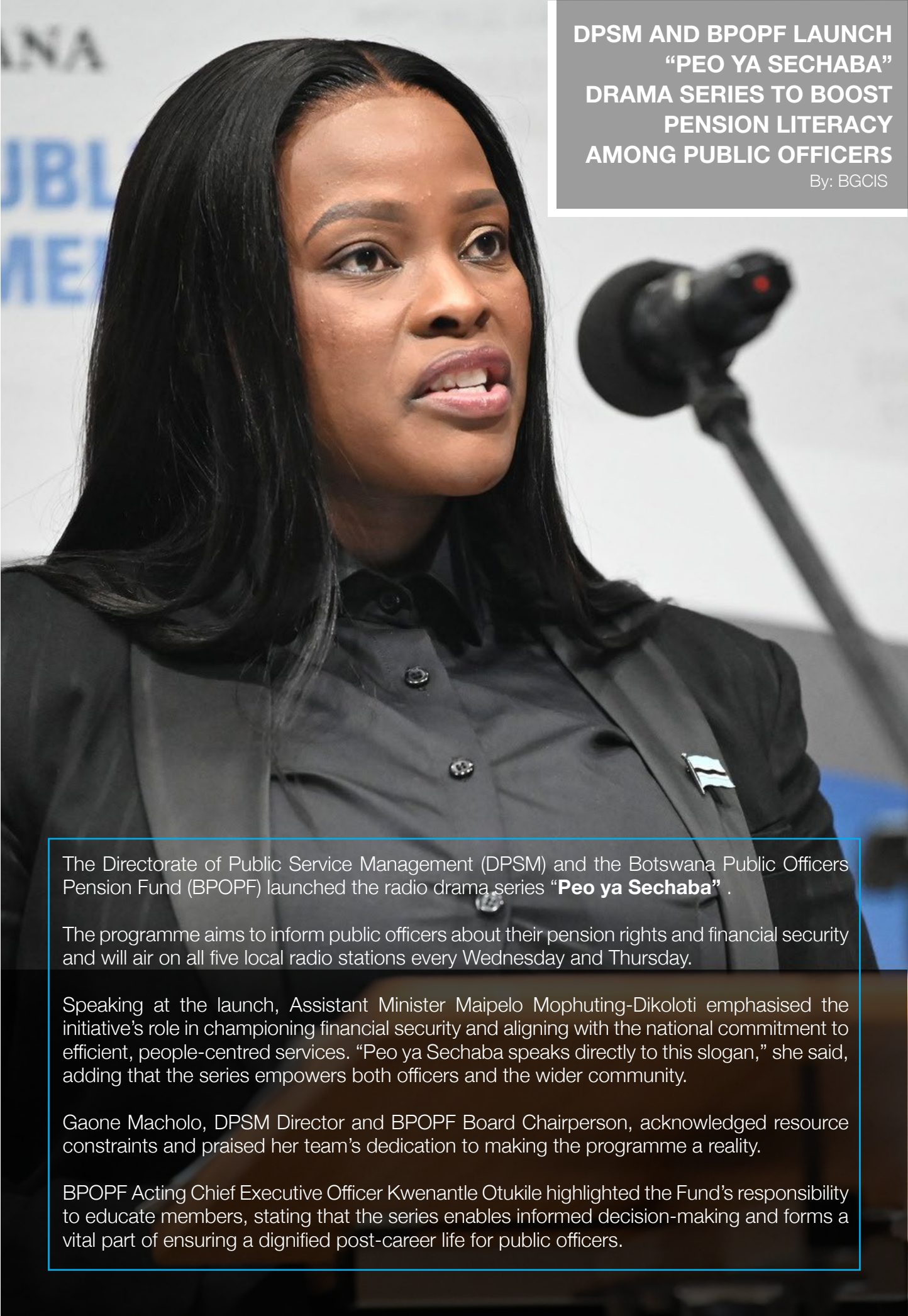
In addressing senior government spokespersons, Minister Mohwasa emphasized that effective communication is not solely the responsibility of individuals, but rather a collective effort that requires unity, a shared vision, and coordinated action. He highlighted that strong collaboration among communicators is crucial for improving service delivery and ensuring that government priorities are clearly understood by the public.

The meeting provided a platform for open dialogue regarding staff welfare, progress in communicating government priorities, and strategies to enhance coordination across various institutions. Minister Mohwasa encouraged participants to exchange ideas, support one another, and build partnerships that prioritize the interests of the nation.

He further underscored that teamwork in government communication is vital for building public trust. By working together, communicators can convey consistent, transparent, and credible messages that reinforce confidence in government institutions. This trust, he noted, is the foundation for effective governance and national unity.

Minister Mohwasa also called for ongoing engagement and collaboration to determine the best approaches for conveying key messages. He stressed that effective communication must be clear, accessible, and aligned with the needs of citizens, ensuring that government initiatives are not only communicated but also understood and embraced by the people of Botswana. Through this collective effort, government communicators will play a pivotal role in strengthening civic responsibility, enhancing transparency, and demonstrating the government's commitment to serving the nation.





DPSM AND BPOPF LAUNCH
“PEO YA SECHABA”
DRAMA SERIES TO BOOST
PENSION LITERACY
AMONG PUBLIC OFFICERS

By: BGCIS

The Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) and the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) launched the radio drama series “**Peo ya Sechaba**”.

The programme aims to inform public officers about their pension rights and financial security and will air on all five local radio stations every Wednesday and Thursday.

Speaking at the launch, Assistant Minister Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti emphasised the initiative’s role in championing financial security and aligning with the national commitment to efficient, people-centred services. “Peo ya Sechaba speaks directly to this slogan,” she said, adding that the series empowers both officers and the wider community.

Gaone Macholo, DPSM Director and BPOPF Board Chairperson, acknowledged resource constraints and praised her team’s dedication to making the programme a reality.

BPOPF Acting Chief Executive Officer Kwenantle Otukile highlighted the Fund’s responsibility to educate members, stating that the series enables informed decision-making and forms a vital part of ensuring a dignified post-career life for public officers.

GOVERNMENT RELEASES THE NATIONAL FORENSIC AUDIT SUMMARY REPORT

By: Charles K. Motlhabani

In a significant step towards governance and public accountability in Botswana, the Government has officially released the Summary Report of the National Forensic Audit. This move reaffirms its commitment to transparency, integrity, and institutional reform. The report was unveiled by the Minister for State President, Defence and Security, Hon. Moeti Caesar Mohwasa, marking an important milestone in the country's efforts to strengthen public sector governance and restore confidence in State institutions.

The release of the report fulfills a key national commitment made by President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, who pledged that his administration would prioritize openness, accountability, and responsible leadership in managing public resources.

The National Forensic Audit was commissioned as part of broader reforms aimed at evaluating the effectiveness and integrity of systems across Government institutions, particularly concerning governance structures, procurement processes, financial management, and oversight mechanisms. During the official release, Hon. Mohwasa emphasized the audit's importance in laying the foundation for a more transparent and accountable public service. He noted that the initiative was not merely an exercise to identify weaknesses but rather a constructive and forward-looking approach designed to strengthen systems, improve operational efficiency, and safeguard public resources for the benefit of all citizens.



The National Forensic Audit is part of the Government's wider institutional transformation agenda which seeks to reinforce ethical leadership, enhance service delivery, and build public confidence in governance structures. By examining key operational systems across public institutions, the audit has provided valuable insights into areas needing reform while highlighting opportunities for improved compliance, efficiency, and accountability. Importantly, the release of the Summary Report demonstrates the Government's willingness to engage citizens openly on matters of national governance and public administration. In many democracies, transparency remains a crucial pillar for maintaining public trust. Botswana's decision to publicly share the audit findings reflects a growing commitment to participatory governance and responsible stewardship.

The audit's focus on procurement and financial management systems is particularly significant, given the essential roles these functions play in ensuring value for money, preventing misuse of public funds, and promoting fair and competitive processes within Government operations. Strengthening oversight systems is expected to positively impact the reduction of inefficiencies, enhance compliance with established regulations, and foster a culture of accountability throughout the public sector.

Furthermore, this initiative sends a strong message about the Government's resolve to protect the integrity of State institutions and ensure that governance structures remain responsive, credible, and aligned with national development priorities. It also recognizes that strong institutions are essential for sustainable economic growth, investor confidence, and effective public service delivery.

The release of the Summary Report is anticipated to pave the way for implementing targeted reforms and corrective measures based on the audit's findings and recommendations. Stakeholders across the Government, civil society, the private sector, and the general public are expected to play vital roles in supporting the reform process and promoting a collective culture of integrity and accountability.



Hon Moeti Mohwasa with Ag. Permanent Secretary MSPDS Mr Jeremiah Makgwa.



Molosiwa Selepeng - Head of Project Administration Team and Judge Mpaphi P. Phumaphi - Member of Project Steering Committee.



Mr Christopher Mbulawa speaking during the presentation of the Forensic Audit Summary Report.



Hon. Minister Mohwasa and with the Coordinator - Public Sector Reforms Mr Thabo Fanu Masalila.

OP & MSPDS IN ACTION !



The Vice President Mr Ndaba Gaolathe, Hon. Minister Phenyio Butale, Acting Permanent Secretary to the President Mrs Matshidiso Bokole and other senior government officials during President Adv. Boko's departure for Kenya to attend the France-Africa Summit.



President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko officially opening the 21st Botswana Defence Force Strategic Conference, at Sir Seretse Khama Barracks.



Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe paying final tribute to former President Festus Mogae at the State Funeral Service held at the University of Botswana Indoor Sports Centre in Gaborone.



Hon. Onneetse Ramogapi, Hon. Moeti Mohwasa, and Hon. Motsamai Motsamai touring the state-of-the-art Workshop Hangar at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport.



Assistant Minister for State President, Defence and Security Maipelo Mophuting- Dikoloti, speaking at Kgomoitso Tshwenyego's funeral.

OP & MSPDS IN ACTION !



Honourable Minister Mohwasa receiving a token of appreciation at the Methodist Church of Southern Africa Young Men's Guild Molopo District Convention during a Cultural Night held in Oodi.



Mr Jeremiah Makgwa, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security, at the bilateral meeting with the Democratic Republic of Congo's Deputy Prime Minister.



Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security, Mr Jeremiah Makgwa during the EU Arms Trade Treaty Outreach Project IV (ATT OP IV) National Assistance Workshop held at Protea Hotel in Gaborone.



MSPDS staff celebrating the life of their beloved colleague Ms Julia "Mplatsi" Monare who served at State House 2.



Ms. Gugulethu Banabothle, Deputy Director, Government Communications during the public relations officers' meeting.



Ms. Selina Charles directing the proceedings during the memorial service for Ms Julia "Mplatsi" Monare,



MINISTER MOHWASA RECEIVES FOOD DONATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FARMERS IN MAHALAPYE

By: Keitumetse Lobeko

In response to the ongoing outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) affecting various regions of Botswana, Spar Mahalapye has made a significant donation of food hampers to the Ministry for State President, Defence, and Security. This initiative aims to support local farmers who have been adversely affected by the disease.

The donations were presented to the Honourable Minister Moeti Caesar Mohwasa in a ceremony held in Mahalapye. This gesture is particularly meaningful for the Farmers Committee, which has volunteered to maintain fencing from the Tuli Block to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR). This effort is part of the broader strategy to control animal movement and mitigate the spread of FMD.

In his remarks during the presentation, Minister Mohwasa pointed out that Botswana is currently grappling with its most severe animal health crisis in history. He discussed the widespread impact of FMD and the urgent need for coordinated efforts to combat it. The Minister urged members of the business community to extend their support to address the pressing needs of Botswana, emphasising that the repercussions of FMD reaches well beyond the agricultural sector, ultimately affecting the entire nation's economy and food security.



Did You Know?



You can request a retirement advance
after 30 days of exit?

*Paid within 1 day
Subject to approved limits
Deducted from your lump sum later
A helpful cushion while you wait.*

NMG Administrators Botswana Head Office: Plot 61920, Letsema Office Park, Block A Fairgrounds,
Gaborone. Tel: 0800 600 177 enquiries@nmgbotswana.co.bw www.nmg-botswana.com

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Ministry for State President, Defence and Security



BOTSWANA SHINES ON THE GLOBAL STAGE AS SHE HOSTS A MAGNIFICENT DEBSWANA WORLD ATHLETIC RELAYS

By: Khumiso Setshogo

Botswana proudly captured the attention of the global sporting community by successfully hosting the eighth edition of the Debswana World Athletics Relays in Gaborone in 2026. This marked the first time the prestigious event was held on African soil. Taking place from May 2nd to 3rd, 2026, the historic championship attracted over 720 athletes from more than 40 countries, all competing for qualification spots at the 2027 World Athletics Championships while delivering electrifying performances on the track.

The competition produced thrilling moments, including world-leading times, area records, and national records across various relay disciplines, cementing Botswana's reputation as a world-class sporting destination. Athletes who triumphed walked away with diamond-accented medals, symbolising Botswana's rich diamond heritage and adding a unique local touch to the global spectacle.

One of the most unforgettable highlights for the blue, black, and white nation was when Botswana's quartet of Lee Bhekimpilo Eppie, Letsile Tebogo, Bayapo Ndori, and Collen Kebinatshipi delivered a breathtaking performance in the men's 4 x 400metres relay, achieving a remarkable victory with a time of 2:54.47.

The successful hosting of the event not only showcased Botswana's sporting excellence and hospitality but also reinforced the country's ability to stage major international competitions with distinction.





REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

MINISTRY OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE



Risk of rabies

STOP RABIES

VACCINATE YOUR DOG TODAY!



YOUR DOG NEEDS YOU!

A healthy dog means a healthy home.



SIGNS OF RABIES IN DOGS:



Aggressive behaviour



Excessive drooling



Fear of water



Biting without reason



Weakness or paralysis

IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS:



Vaccinate your dog every year



Do not allow dogs to roam freely



Feed and care for your dog properly



Report sick or aggressive animals immediately



Seek medical help after any dog bite

VACCINATING YOUR DOG AGAINST RABIES HELPS PROTECT:



YOUR FAMILY



YOUR NEIGHBOURS



YOUR LIVESTOCK



YOUR COMMUNITY

REMEMBER:

- ✓ Vaccinate yearly
- ✓ Provide clean water and food
- ✓ Keep dogs in safe areas
- ✓ Visit a vet when your dog is sick
- ✓ Never ignore unusual behaviour



MINISTRY FOR STATE PRESIDENT, DEFENCE AND SECURITY RALLIES STAFF TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST “THE SILENT KILLER”

By: Gaone Ramatsiripane

The Ministry for State President, Defence and Security commemorated World Hypertension Day at the Mass Media Auditorium under the theme “Controlling Hypertension Together.” The event brought together government officials, health professionals, and staff members to raise awareness about hypertension and encourage preventive health practices.

In his remarks, Mr. Boikanyo noted that World Hypertension Day, commemorated annually on 17 May, aims to raise awareness and promote prevention, detection, and control of hypertension. He highlighted that this year’s theme underscores the importance of shared responsibility among individuals, families, communities, and health professionals in ensuring effective blood pressure control.

In his remarks, Mr. Boikanyo noted that World Hypertension Day, commemorated annually on the 17th May and aims to raise awareness and promote prevention, detection, and control of hypertension. He highlighted that this year’s theme underscores the importance of shared responsibility among individuals, families, communities, and health professionals in ensuring effective blood pressure control.

Proceedings began with an opening prayer by Mr. Tshiamo Keleboge, followed by the introduction of guests by Mr. T. Ramoroka. Opening remarks were delivered on behalf of the Acting Permanent Secretary by Mr. Kelebogile Boikanyo, The Government Buyer, who welcomed attendees and emphasized the importance of collective action in combating hypertension.



Mr. Boikanyo further stated that hypertension remains a major public health concern in Botswana, affecting approximately 40 percent of adults, according to the 2024 Botswana NCD STEP Survey preliminary results. He explained that hypertension is often referred to as the “silent killer” because it develops without noticeable symptoms while silently damaging vital organs. He therefore encouraged regular health screenings and awareness initiatives as practical interventions for early detection and management.

He also urged staff and the public to adopt healthier lifestyles by improving dietary habits, engaging in regular physical activity, reducing alcohol consumption, and avoiding tobacco use. He reaffirmed the Ministry’s commitment to fostering a supportive environment that promotes awareness of non-communicable diseases and encouraged early health screenings.

A presentation on hypertension and its risk factors was delivered by Ms. Wame Dikobe of Circle Point Medical Centre. She explained that hypertension, commonly known as high blood pressure, occurs when the force of blood against artery walls remains consistently high. The ideal blood pressure level, she noted, is 120/80 mmHg or lower, and she outlined the different categories of blood pressure readings and recommended interventions.

Ms. Dikobe highlighted that, according to the World Health Organization, approximately 1.28 billion adults worldwide are living with hypertension, while Botswana’s STEPS Survey 2024 indicates that about 29 percent of adults in the country are hypertensive. She outlined common risk factors such as smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, obesity, lack of exercise, excessive salt intake, family history, and chronic conditions including diabetes, kidney disease, and HIV. Workplace-related risks such as prolonged sitting, job stress, long working hours, and poor nutrition were also discussed.

Additionally, she emphasized warning signs and symptoms including severe headaches, chest pain, vision problems, dizziness, and shortness of breath, noting that many people may live with the condition unknowingly.

Ms. Dikobe warned that uncontrolled hypertension can lead to serious complications such as stroke, heart attack, kidney failure, and vision loss. She encouraged participants to adopt healthier lifestyles through balanced diets, regular physical activity, and routine health screenings, while promoting workplace wellness initiatives such as screening days, walking breaks, and healthy eating programmes.

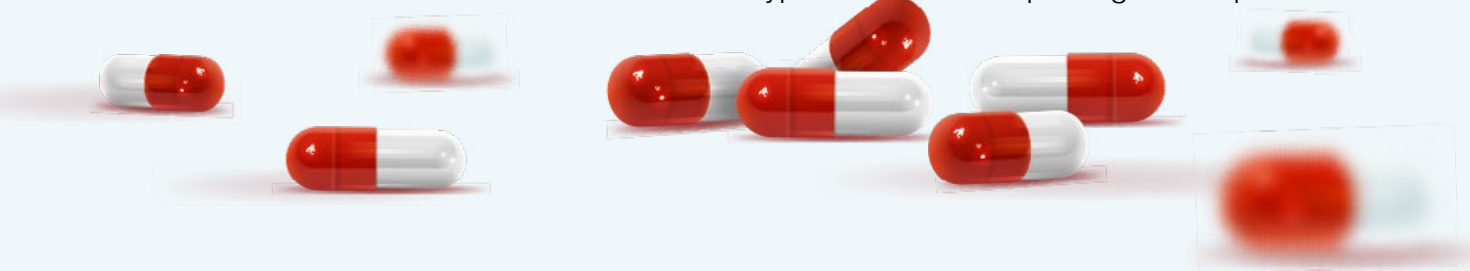
Closing remarks were delivered by Senior Manager, Mr. Lovemore Mawila, who emphasized that fighting hypertension requires collective efforts from all stakeholders such as individuals, families, communities, employers, and health professionals. He stated that the fight against high blood pressure is a shared responsibility that demands commitment at every level to ensure effective prevention and control.

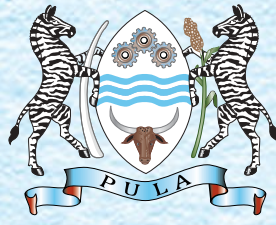
Mr. Mawila reiterated that hypertension remains a major public health concern in Botswana, affecting approximately 40 percent of adults, and expressed concern that, given the country’s relatively small population, intensified efforts are needed to reduce its prevalence and improve national health outcomes. He stressed the importance of regular medical check-ups and early screening, noting that many people continue to live with hypertension unknowingly until serious complications arise.

He particularly encouraged men to take their health seriously and prioritise routine medical screenings, observing that men are often reluctant to seek medical attention compared to women. He urged participants to maintain healthy lifestyles and support one another in promoting wellness both at home and in the workplace.

As part of the commemoration, screening services were offered from 10:00 to 13:00, including checks for blood pressure, diabetes (RBS), Body Mass Index (BMI), body composition, and eye health. These screenings aimed to encourage early detection and promote healthy lifestyles among employees and the public.

The commemoration reaffirmed the Ministry’s commitment to promoting wellness and encouraging Botswana to work together in controlling hypertension and improving overall public health.





REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
**MINISTRY FOR STATE PRESIDENT,
DEFENCE AND SECURITY**

Official
Welcome
Announcement



Ms. Samma Tabudi-Motlhagodi
Chief Public Relations Officer.
Ministry for State President Defence
and Security

The Ministry for State President Defence and Security warmly welcomes Ms. Samma Tabudi-Motlhagodi, the Chief Public Relations Officer. Ms. Motlhagodi is a distinguished communicator with more than 20 years of experience in Media, Communications and Public Relations fraternity. She brings exceptional strategic insight and a proven record of leadership across diverse sectors including Defence and Security, Local Governance, Transport and Communications, Audit, and Health.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Media, Communications and Culture from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in South Africa, specializing in Public Relations and Corporate Communications. Her academic foundation is further strengthened by professional development in crisis communications and digital media strategies, equipping her to navigate the complexities of modern public engagement.

Beginning her career as a broadcast journalist, Ms. Motlhagodi refined her expertise in storytelling, audience analysis, and media engagement. Transitioning into Government Communications, she has successfully led numerous public information campaigns, including initiatives that significantly enhanced public awareness. Notably, she has played a central role in National Mindset change campaigns and National clean-up campaigns, both of which have contributed to fostering civic responsibility and strengthening community participation.

Her leadership has consistently advanced ministerial communication strategies through impactful messaging, coordinated media outreach, and the establishment of strong stakeholder networks. These networks span community organizations, private sector leaders, and government agencies, all working together to promote transparency and build public trust in governmental institutions.

The Ministry warmly welcomes Ms. Motlhagodi to this vital role and looks forward to her continued contributions in advancing effective communication, national campaigns and events as well as public engagement. Ms Motlhagodi can be reached at.

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Staff Introduction



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Office Cleaner



Ms Widzani Lusu
Office Cleaner



Ms Gaone Ntokonyane
Office Cleaner



Ms Malebogo Jautse
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Ms Bokhutlo Kenalepe
Office Cleaner



Ms Boitumelo Wadithato
Office Cleaner

Staff Introduction



Ms Meshack Chandapiwa
Office Cleaner



Ms Abueng Moirapula
SHE-Intern



Ms Lebogang Mampadi
Office Cleaner



Mr Gaenathuso Garebaitse
Gardener , State House 2



Ms Alinah Mokowe
Office Cleaner



Ms Kebatshotse Letlhokwe
Office Cleaner

Staff Introduction



Mr Tefo Kelailwe
Administration Officer-Training



Ms Tshiamo Ramapulana
Administration Officer



Ms Tebogo Mothoka
Office Cleaner



Mr Tlotlo Odirile
State House 2, Gardener



Mr Wilfred Khali
State House 2, Gardener



MsTshekiso Zachariah
Office Cleaner

Staff Introduction



Ms Keitumetse Lobeko
Public Relations Officer-MSPDS
Transfer from Ministry of Justice &
Correctional Services



Ms Gaone Ramatsiripane
Public Relations Officer - MSPDS
Transfer from Ministry of Higher Education



Ms Esther Kedikilwe
Office Cleaner

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Data Protection Awareness and Compliance Initiatives

The Data Protection Office continues to cultivate awareness across the Ministry by ensuring that employees participate in self-paced online training programmes. The training was designed to gauge the awareness levels and appetite for data protection among employees and the Ministry at large. **In an effort to further promote awareness and encourage participation, a data protection competition was conducted, with three winners being awarded laptops. This initiative successfully helped create greater interest and enthusiasm for data protection within the Ministry.**

Following the Minister for State President's announcement at a Consultative Meeting on the Implementation of the Data Protection Act of No.18 of 2024 on the 26th March 2026, that the grace period for compliance is over and that the Information and Data Protection Commission should now implement enforcement measures, the Ministry remains committed to strengthening compliance efforts. Key focus areas include updating internal systems to integrate data protection principles, concepts, rights, and safeguards into everyday operations.

While financial challenges within Government remain apparent, the Ministry acknowledges the need for innovative approaches to achieve compliance and sustain data protection initiatives.



Report a case of a Data Breach:



mnsrumola@gov.bw



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