



**GOV@
WORK**
Monthly Review

ISSUE 2 | JUNE, 2026

NATIONAL POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN REACHES 77% COVERAGE

P160 Billion Forensic Audit Findings • Mogae's Final Journey
• What Joining Global Diamond Federation Means

EDITORIAL TEAM

Contributors

Boitumelo Neo Sefhera
Silas Sehularo
Charles Motlhabani
Samma Tabudi-Motlhagodi
Kebolokwe S. Khumoetsile
Keneilwe Segopolo
Game Neelo Mogotsi
Marang Mpedi
Lesego Kgomanyane
Florence Lesotlho
Laone Molelo
Alfred Mpho
Kealeboga M. Kgosiso
Baby Mpatane
Botho Baputaki

Design&Layout

Kabo Ramadi

BGCIS MANAGEMENT

Deputy Permanent Secretary

Tuduetso Mokgosi

Deputy Directors

Lawrence Seretse
Gugulethu Banabotlhe

Chief Public Relations officers

Thalefang Charles
Doreen Motshegwa
Dr Caroline Bogale-Jaiyeoba

Our Vision

Improved Quality Of
Life for All.

Our Mission Statement

Leadership and coordination of Government policies and programmes for sustainable development and improved quality of life.

EDITOR'S NOTE

A Government in Motion

There are moments in the life of a nation when seemingly separate events begin to tell a single story. This edition of Govt@Work captures such a moment. Across government, Botswana continues to demonstrate that reform, service delivery, economic transformation and nation-building are not competing priorities. They are part of the same journey.

In a solemn moment of national reflection, government recently managed the delicate balance between customary protocol and state dignity in the arrangements for the State Funeral of His Excellency former President Festus Mogae. The process required careful navigation of traditional leadership expectations, family wishes and the formal honours due to a former head of state.

One of the defining developments from May has been the publication of the national Forensic Audit Summary. As the most extensive governance review ever undertaken in Botswana, the exercise exposed serious weaknesses in procurement, oversight and financial controls. The findings were not comfortable, but transparency has little value if it only celebrates success. True accountability requires the courage to confront shortcomings and the determination to fix them.

At the same time, government has continued to deliver on its core responsibility to improve the lives of citizens. Health teams across the country successfully completed the first phase of the national polio vaccination campaign, protecting hundreds of thousands of children and reinforcing Botswana's commitment to public health and disease prevention. This initiative stands at a 77% success rate. On the global stage, Botswana once again demonstrated its capability and ambition.

The successful hosting of the Debswana World Athletics Relays showcased not only world-class sport but also the country's organisational capacity, hospitality and ability to deliver events of international significance. For a few memorable days, Botswana stood proudly at the centre of the sporting world.

Parliament's adoption of the Botswana National Youth Policy (2026–2036) signals a renewed commitment to empowering young people through skills development, innovation, entrepreneurship and meaningful participation in national development. It recognises a simple truth: Botswana's greatest resource has always been its people, especially its youth.

Economic transformation also continues to gather momentum. Botswana's affiliation with the World Federation of Diamond Bourses strengthens the nation's ambition to move further along the diamond value chain and deepen local participation in one of its most important industries. Alongside these achievements, communities across the country continue to unite against Gender-Based Violence, reminding us that development is not measured only by infrastructure, policy and economic growth, but also by the safety, dignity and wellbeing of our people.

Taken together, these milestones reflect a government focused on reforming institutions, strengthening service delivery, expanding economic opportunity and building a more resilient Botswana. The work is not always easy. Progress is rarely linear. Yet every policy implemented, every child vaccinated, every reform advanced, every investment secured and every community served contributes to the larger national mission of creating a Botswana that is more prosperous, inclusive and accountable.

As we turn the pages of this edition, we celebrate not only achievements, but the thousands of public servants whose commitment makes them possible.

To Honourable Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Chief Public Relations Officers, communicators, technical officers and the entire Civil Service family: thank you for your service. As we enter another demanding month, may we continue to lead from the front, remain resilient in the face of challenges, take ownership of our milestones, and work together with purpose to deliver results for the people of Botswana.

TABLE OF CONTENTS



8

Government publishes landmark forensic audit summary

16

National Polio Vaccination Campaign Reaches 77% Coverage

Governance

- 4 Parliament Completes Examinations for 28 State-Owned Enterprises
- 6 Parliament Adopts Botswana National Youth Policy (2026-2036)
- 7 Botswana, Rwanda Sign Six Bilateral Agreements
- 10 BNC Celebrates Key Achievements in Botswana-South Africa Relations
- 11 Gov't Strengthens Capacity to Fight Financial Crimes with New AML Office and SADC Protocol Strengthen Correctional Transformation
- 18 Gov't's Delicate Balancing Of Custom And Dignity In Mogae's State Funeral Arrangements

Economy

- 14 Botswana Admitted to WFDB in Historic Move for Natural Diamond Sector

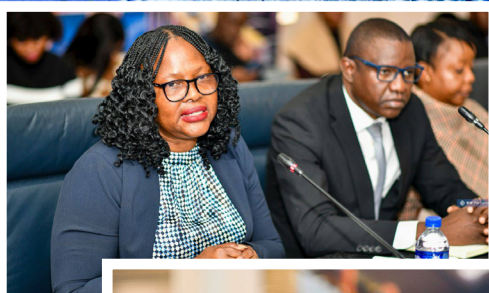
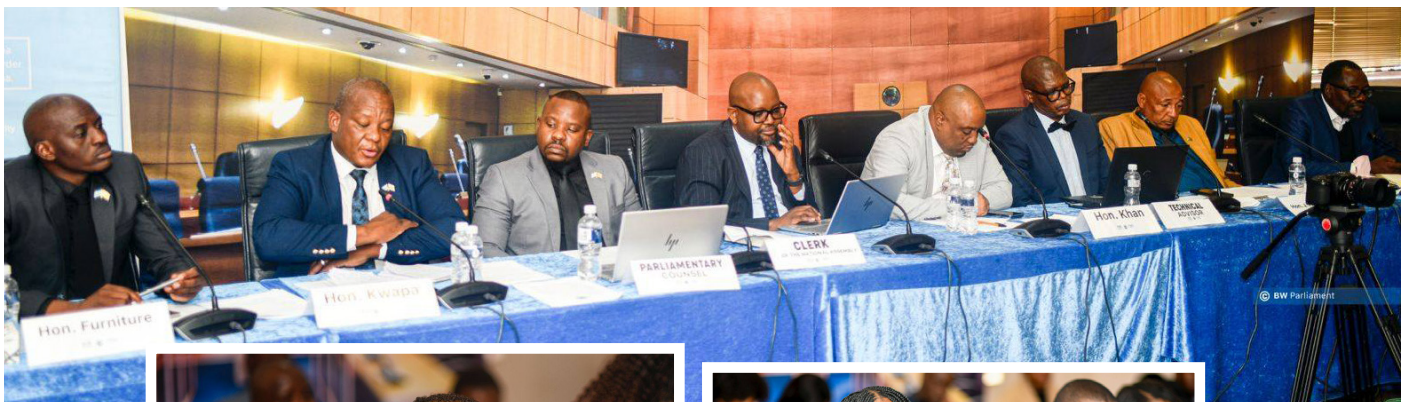
Sport

- 12 Botswana Cements Place on Global Sporting Map with Successful World Athletics Relays

Social Impact

- 20 Government Launches Insourcing Drive Giving Job Security to Cleaners, Gardeners and Security Guards
- 21 Government Strengthens Disability Inclusion And Human Rights
- 22 Rehabilitation, Dignity And Hope: Assistant Minister Nyatanga's Prison Visits Strengthen Correctional Transformation

Parliament Completes Examinations for 28 State-Owned Enterprises



Article by SILAS SEHULARO

Parliament has successfully concluded the first round of examinations of 28 State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), Agencies, Parastatals and Body Corporates under the Parliamentary Standing Committee Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises.

The examinations, which commenced on 11 May 2026 and concluded on 26 May 2026 at Parliament Buildings, form part of Parliament's constitutional oversight mandate aimed at strengthening accountability, transparency, good governance and prudent management of public resources.

Out of the 62 State-Owned Enterprises scheduled for examination during the broader oversight programme, Parliament has completed examinations for 28 entities during this first phase, marking a significant milestone in the Committee's oversight work for the month of May.

The exercise is conducted in accordance with Standing Order 110.2, which mandates Parliament to examine the operations and performance of statutory bodies and state enterprises. Through this process, Chief Executive Officers and senior management teams appeared before the Committee to account for their institutions' financial performance, governance systems, policy implementation, service delivery, project execution, and responses to audit and regulatory findings.

The Committee also reviewed financial statements and operational reports covering

the 2021/2022 to 2024/2025 financial years to assess institutional efficiency, value for money, and the effective utilization of public funds in delivering services to Batswana.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises is chaired by Hon. Arafat K. Khan and comprises Members of Parliament drawn from across the National Assembly. The Committee continues to play a critical role in ensuring that public institutions remain accountable to Parliament and the citizens of Botswana.

The examinations covered the following entities;

Hon. Arafat K. Khan,
Chairman of The
Parliamentary
Standing Committee
on Statutory
Bodies and State
Enterprises



- Air Botswana
- Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB)
- Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS)
- Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST)
- Botswana Meat Commission (BMC)
- Botswana National Productivity Centre (BNPC)
- National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI)
- Botswana Postal Services Limited
- Botswana Power Corporation (BPC)
- Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA)
- Water Utilities Corporation (WUC)
- Gambling Authority
- Botswana Railways
- Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA)
- Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO)
- Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC)
- Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS)
- Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana (CAAB)
- Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA)
 - Mineral Development Company Botswana Limited
 - Public Enterprises Evaluation and Privatisation Agency (PEEPA)
 - University of Botswana (UB)
 - Botswana Oil Limited
 - Botswana Development Corporation (BDC)
 - Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA)
 - Selebi Phikwe Economic Diversification Unit (SPEDU)
 - Banyana (PTY) LTD
 - Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI)



PARLIAMENT ADOPTS BOTSWANA NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY (2026-2036)

Article by LESEGO KGOMANYANE

Parliament adopted the revised National Youth Policy (2026-2036) during its May sitting session. The policy, tabled by the Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs, Lesego Chombo, aims to strengthen youth empowerment, create employment, develop skills, and ensure inclusive participation in national development, which aligns with the key aspirations of Vision 2036.

The revised policy offers a strategic framework to guide programmes and initiatives addressing youth challenges, including unemployment, skills development, entrepreneurship, health and social inclusion. It seeks to establish an enabling environment in which young people can contribute fully to Botswana's economic and social transformation. Additional focus is placed on innovation, digital transformation and leadership

development.

"The policy prioritises rural youth, youth in agriculture, access to land, tailored finance and infrastructure in underserved areas,"

Minister Chombo revealed. "This is critical because youth development cannot be urban, elite or narrow. It must speak to the young farmer, the rural entrepreneur, the graduate in transition and the innovator building something from the ground up."

The policy also supports collaboration between government, the private sector and development partners to improve opportunities for young people whilst addressing emerging challenges that affect them.

"We recognise the need for a strong collaboration with the private sector to guide curriculum development as well as absorption rates into tertiary institutions."

Honourable Chombo
Minister, Youth and Gender Affairs

"Such collaborations are intended to ensure a seamless structure from education into the labour market. This is how we begin to close the gap between education and the economy – how we move from qualification without opportunity to qualification with relevance."

The policy was developed following extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders, including young people, civil society and development partners, among others. Its adoption demonstrates the government's commitment to transforming the lives of young people across the country and building an inclusive society in which they can play a meaningful role.



The move marks a significant milestone in Botswana's efforts to reposition young people at the centre of national development and to create opportunities that will empower them to contribute meaningfully to the nation's socio-economic transformation.

BOTSWANA, RWANDA SIGN SIX BILATERAL AGREEMENTS



Article by THUTO DITIBANE

Botswana and Rwanda have signed six bilateral agreements to strengthen ties and boost trade and economic growth. The agreements, covering double taxation avoidance, visa abolition, health, and economic trade and investment, were signed today during a joint press briefing addressed by both presidents in Gaborone.

President Advocate Duma Boko said Rwandan President Paul Kagame's visit reaffirmed their strategic alignment and aimed to increase trade and investment. He urged officials to implement the agreements swiftly and confirmed that the visa abolition agreement takes immediate effect, with Rwanda already implementing it and Botswana following suit.

President Kagame noted that the two countries share a true sense of purpose, with cooperation designed to remove barriers for mutual benefit. He commended Botswana's prudent management of its natural resources, particularly diamonds, for the benefit of its people.

The two countries maintain a Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation, established in Kigali in April 2019.



GOVERNMENT PUBLISHES LANDMARK FORENSIC AUDIT SUMMARY

...Revealing Systemic Weaknesses and Pathway to Reform



Article by LAONE MOLELO

The government has published a summary report of the largest forensic audit programme ever undertaken in the country, fulfilling a key commitment to transparency, accountability, and the fight against corruption.

The report, compiled by Alvarez & Marsal Middle East Limited, consolidates findings from 30 forensic audits conducted between June 2025 and March 2026 across key ministries, state-owned enterprises (SOEs), and public bodies. The programme represents the

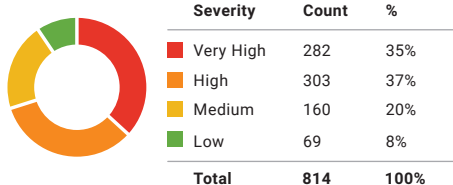
first systematic, large-scale assessment of governance, procurement, and financial controls across the public sector.

The forensic audit programme was commissioned by government to move beyond isolated reviews and develop a comprehensive picture of corruption risks, governance failures, and operational weaknesses. The scale of the engagement reflects the Government's determination to identify serious weaknesses quickly and take decisive corrective action.

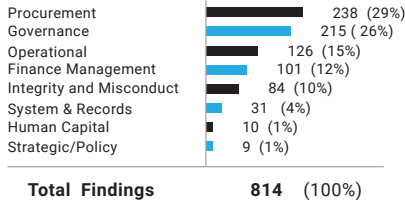
Overall Findings



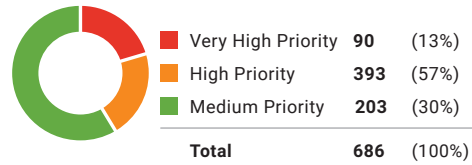
Summary of Findings by Severity



Finding by Theme (Topline)



Recommendations by Priority



Key Takeaways



High-risk issues are concentrated in procurement and governance.



Weak controls, ineffective oversight and poor accountability are recurring.



Most recommendations are High or Very High priority and require urgent action.



The most serious matter have been referred for special investigation.

Systemic Enablers Identified

The report identified six recurring conditions that allowed misconduct and waste to persist:

Weak oversight mechanisms

Audit, regulatory, and board challenges were ineffective or bypassed.

Ineffective control institutions

Anti-corruption, prosecution, and ethics bodies lacked capacity, resourcing, or follow-through.

Vulnerabilities in procurement

Excessive discretion, weak competition, and manipulation of tenders.

Weak financial management

Poor budget control and diversion of ring-fenced funds.

Operational and delivery failures

Poor systems, missing records, and unviable SOE business models.

Weak culture of accountability

No consequence for misconduct, unsafe whistleblower environment, normalised non-compliance.

Government's Reform Response

Government has accepted the findings and is moving immediately to implement a six-pillar structural reform programme:

Governance Reform

Strengthening board independence, audit functions, and regulatory oversight.

Institutional Reform

Revitalising anti-corruption, prosecution, and ethics enforcement bodies, including a review of the DIS mandate.

Procurement Reform

Reducing excessive authority in Accounting Officers, tightening controls on direct awards and emergency procurement, and professionalising procurement.

Financial Reform

Restoring budget discipline, protecting special funds, and enforcing loan recoveries, including against politically exposed persons.

Operational Reform

Turning around insolvent SOEs, digitising critical systems, and introducing national standards for records and procedures.

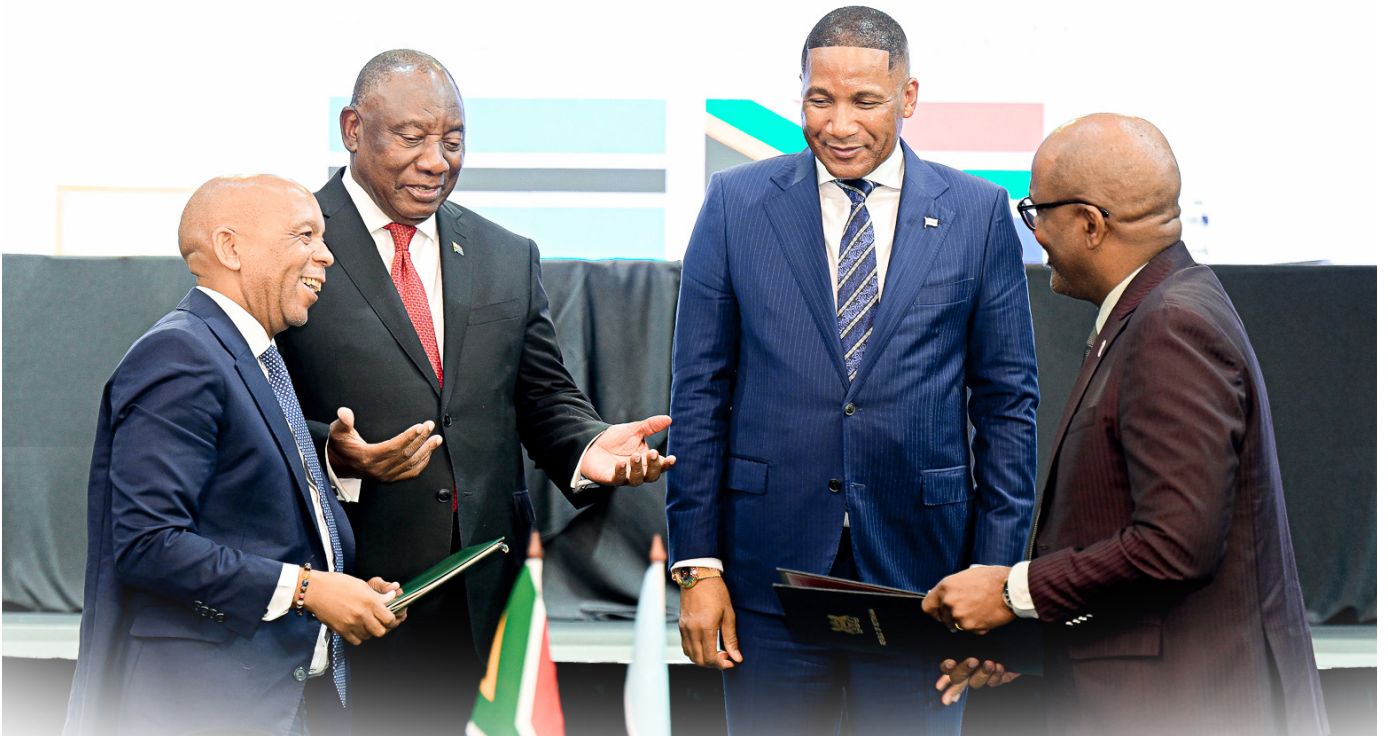
Cultural Reform

Strengthening consequence management, protecting whistleblowers, and embedding ethics in public service training.

A dedicated reform delivery mechanism with independent technical capability will be established to coordinate implementation across all entities, track progress, and escalate non-compliance.

The full Forensic Audit Summary Report is available on the Government portal. Detailed entity-specific reports are not being published to protect ongoing investigations, but will inform disciplinary, civil, and criminal action where warranted.

BNC Celebrates Key Achievements in Botswana-South Africa Relations



Article by SAMMA TABUDI-MOTLHAGODI

The Bi-National Commission (BNC) between Botswana and South Africa has secured a series of tangible achievements, reinforcing economic and security ties between the two neighbours, according to a new assessment of the partnership.

Established in August 2012 following a state visit by former South African President Jacob Zuma to Botswana, the BNC elevated bilateral discussions from ministerial level, which was previously overseen by the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation (JPCC), to direct engagement between heads of state. Under the framework, both Presidents now meet annually to oversee progress and address matters of mutual interest.

The deep-rooted relationship draws on a shared history of resistance against colonialism and apartheid, during which Botswana provided logistical support and safe passage for South African liberation movements. The BNC has built

on this brotherhood by creating a legally structured mechanism for strategic management.

Priority Achievements

Key outcomes of the BNC's work include a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the joint management of water quality and the control of aquatic invasive species in the upper Limpopo River basin – a vital resource for both countries. In aviation safety, the two nations have agreed on a search and rescue arrangement that coordinates joint emergency responses in line with international civil aviation standards.

Energy cooperation has also advanced significantly, with both sides committing to enhance energy security, develop renewable infrastructure, and reduce reliance on external sources. In addition, correctional services have benefited from shared best practices in prison management through ongoing cooperation.

Infrastructure and Trade

Beyond signed agreements, the BNC is driving high-impact transport and water projects. These include the modernisation of border posts and the establishment of one-stop border posts at critical locations such as Martins Drift, Groblers, and Tlokweng Kopfontein.

A railway linking Mmamabula to Lephalale is also under consideration, which would connect Botswana directly to South African rail networks and ports, easing the movement of commodity resources.



A significant initiative is the Lesotho-South Africa-Botswana (LESABO) water transfer project, operating under the Orange Senqu River framework. The project aims to transport water from Lesotho through South Africa to supply the southern part of Botswana, including Gaborone.

Structured Process

These achievements followed a rigorous multi-stage process. Standing committees focused on political, diplomatic, economic, social, defence and security matters. Technical experts and directors from both nations drafted reports and resolved bureaucratic details before ministers from portfolios such as energy, water and trade verified proposals. The final stage saw both Presidents briefed and signing agreements in each other's presence.

Analysts note that while challenges remain, which includes market trade barriers and energy independence for Botswana, the BNC has proved an effective platform for delivering mutual benefits and strengthening the longstanding partnership between the two nations.

GOV'T STRENGTHENS CAPACITY TO FIGHT FINANCIAL CRIMES WITH NEW AML OFFICE AND SADC PROTOCOL

Article by KENEILWE SEGOPOLO

The Government has taken significant steps to strengthen its capacity to combat illicit financial flows, with the Ministry of Finance implementing two key decisions being the signing of the amended SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment, and the establishment of the Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Coordination Office.

The newly created AML Coordination Office will bring together various stakeholders, including the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC), the Botswana Police Service, the Directorate of Intelligence Service (DIS) and other relevant bodies, to coordinate a unified response to financial crimes.

The office represents a strategic intention by the government to ensure Botswana plays a meaningful role in delivering coherent responses to cross-border risks, while strengthening the country's contribution to the global AML and counter-terrorist financing architecture.

In April, President Duma Boko signed the Agreement Amending the SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment. The amended treaty incorporates provisions on countering the financing of terrorism and countering proliferation financing, aligning with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations.

The government has made commendable progress in strengthening its anti-financial crimes framework. Assessments conducted by the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group and the FATF have noted compliance across most recommendations. Ongoing initiatives, including national risk assessments and collaborations with partners such as the EU Global AML/CFT Facility, further reinforce Botswana's institutional capacity to combat illicit financial flows.

The signing of the instrument comes as the Ministry of Finance begins preparations for the 2027 country Mutual Evaluation by the FATF.

BOTSWANA CEMENTS PLACE ON GLOBAL SPORTING MAP WITH SUCCESSFUL WORLD ATHLETICS RELAYS



Article by MARANG MPEDI

Botswana proudly cemented its place on the global sporting map in May after successfully hosting the Debswana World Athletics Relays Gaborone 26, becoming one of the few nations ever entrusted with staging an athletics event of such international magnitude.

The government played a leading role in supporting the

event, working closely with strategic partners and sponsors who contributed significantly to the championships' success. The championships proved a defining national moment, showcasing Botswana's organisational capability, hospitality, peace, unity and ambition to the world.

For several days, Gaborone was transformed into the centre

of global athletics as over 1,700 athletes from around the world gathered to compete at the National Stadium. The event brought together over 60 technical officials, 600 volunteers, and attracted more than 150 international broadcasters, all working together to ensure the championships' successful delivery.

A packed stadium, adorned in the blue, black and white national



The event brought together over 60 technical officials, 600 volunteers, and attracted more than 150 international broadcasters, all working together to ensure the championships' successful delivery.

colours, combined with vibrant celebrations and overwhelming public support to create an electric atmosphere throughout the competition. Thousands of spectators filled the stands to watch some of the world's finest athletes compete at the highest level. The championships demonstrated Botswana's love of sport and also the country's readiness to host global events with excellence and professionalism.

At the heart of this historic achievement was the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and its secretariat, whose meticulous planning and coordination ensured the smooth execution of every aspect of the championships. The event was driven by an 18-sector committee structure comprising teams responsible for transport, accommodation, hospitality, safeguarding, security, protocol, logistics, media, medical services, volunteer coordination and other critical operational areas.

The success of the relays reflected unprecedented

collaboration between government ministries, the private sector, security agencies and national stakeholders. All branches of Botswana's security services were mobilised and fully integrated into the planning and execution of the event to guarantee the safety and wellbeing of athletes, officials, spectators and visitors throughout the championships.

A major highlight was Botswana's exceptional safety record. Despite the large crowds and international presence, the championships recorded zero major incidents.

All events commenced and concluded on schedule, reflecting the efficiency, discipline and professionalism of the organisers and stakeholders. The peaceful atmosphere that prevailed throughout the championships became one of the defining features praised by international visitors and global audiences alike. The successful hosting of the relays further demonstrated the power of national collaboration.

Botswana Admitted to WFDB in Historic Move for Natural Diamond Sector

Article by **KEBOLOKWE S. KHUMOETSILE**

Botswana has officially been admitted as a member of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB), marking a historic milestone for the country's diamond industry and reaffirming its growing influence in the global natural diamond value chain.

The formal announcement was made by the Minister of Minerals and Energy, Bogolo Kenewendo, during the WFDB Summit held in Gaborone on 18 May 2026. The summit brought together leaders of international diamond bourses, investors, policymakers, industry captains and strategic partners from across the global diamond sector.

In her remarks, Minister Kenewendo described Botswana's admission to the WFDB as a defining moment in the country's diamond journey and a reflection of the confidence that the international diamond community continues to place in Botswana's governance systems, ethical standards and long-standing commitment to responsible mining.

"For decades Botswana has been the trusted source of some of the finest natural diamonds on earth. Our ambition now goes

beyond mining. Our ambition is to bring the diamond industry home and, most importantly, to deepen economic participation for those who are friends of Botswana, those who do business in Botswana and for Botswana," said Minister Kenewendo.

The Minister further announced that Botswana will join the global federation through the Botswana Mercantile Exchange – a move expected to strengthen the country's participation in international diamond trading and



"For decades Botswana has been the trusted source of some of the finest natural diamonds on earth."

Honourable Kenewendo
Minister of Minerals
and Energy



open new opportunities for local industry players.

The WFDB Summit focused on the future of natural diamonds, market sustainability, traceability, ethical sourcing and the evolving consumer demand for authentic and responsibly sourced luxury products. Delegates noted Botswana’s success story as one of the world’s leading examples of how natural resources can drive national development, economic transformation and social progress.

Speaking during the summit dialogues, industry representatives commended Botswana for consistently championing transparency and ethical leadership within the diamond sector. They highlighted the country’s role in promoting natural diamonds as a force for good, supporting livelihoods, education, healthcare and infrastructure development.

The summit also reinforced Botswana’s strategic ambition

to position itself not only as a leading diamond producer, but also as a global benchmark for provenance, authenticity, responsible sourcing and organic luxury. This vision aligns with the ancient wisdom that true prosperity is rooted in stewardship.

Representatives from the Botswana Stock Exchange emphasised the importance of collaboration between financial markets and the diamond industry in driving investment, innovation and long-term economic diversification.

Botswana’s admission to the WFDB comes at a significant time as the country prepares to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee, marking 60 years of independence in 2026. The development is expected to elevate Botswana’s visibility and influence within the international diamond trade ecosystem.

As a member of the WFDB, Botswana will actively participate in one of the world’s most secure and established diamond trading platforms, connecting diamond dealers, cutters, polishers and jewellers from major trading centres across the globe. The membership is expected to enhance the marketing and competitiveness of Botswana’s diamonds while creating broader opportunities for citizen economic participation and downstream diamond activities.

The admission further reinforces Botswana’s position as a trusted global leader in the natural diamond industry and signals a new era of international engagement, beneficiation and sustainable growth for the sector.

NATIONAL POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN REACHES 77% COVERAGE

Article by GAME NEELO MOGOTSI

The Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs has successfully completed the first phase of Botswana's National Polio Vaccination Campaign, which took place across all 31 health districts from 5th to 8th May 2026.

The campaign targeted children aged 0 to 59 months, with an estimated 272,100 eligible children identified based on the 2022 Statistics Botswana Population Census. According to the Ministry, vaccination teams visited 170,068 households nationwide and inoculated 209,198 children under the age of five, achieving 77% coverage of the target population.

As part of ongoing disease surveillance efforts, health authorities identified 14 cases of Sudden Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP), a condition characterised by sudden weakness of the limbs. Further investigations revealed that only two of these were confirmed as true AFP cases, with additional assessments under way to rule out polio infection.

The Ministry also reported resistance to vaccination in some communities. A total of 116

households, involving 178 eligible children, declined vaccination services. Reasons cited included religious beliefs, reluctance among some foreign nationals to use local health services, and general vaccine hesitancy.

To improve access and increase coverage, the campaign deployed transit vaccination teams at health facilities and schools, whilst temporary vaccination sites were established at Kgotla and Village Development Committee (VDC) offices.

The Ministry expressed gratitude to healthcare workers, community leaders, development partners, parents and guardians for their support and participation throughout the campaign.

The second phase of the National Polio Vaccination Campaign is scheduled to take place from 8th to 11th June 2026.

Members of the public have been encouraged to continue supporting routine childhood immunisation programmes and to ensure that all eligible children receive their vaccinations.



**Vaccination
teams visited
170,068
households
nationwide
and inoculated
209,198
children under
the age of five,
achieving
77%
coverage of
the target
population.**





GOVT'S DELICATE BALANCING OF CUSTOM AND DIGNITY IN MOGAE'S STATE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS



Article by BGCIS

When the government announced that former President Festus Mogae would be laid to rest in Gaborone rather than his birthplace of Serowe, it stirred a measured but meaningful debate about the intersection of modern state protocol and deep-rooted cultural traditions.

For many in Serowe, especially his ward at Botlalaote, the decision was met with concern. In Setswana tradition, returning to one's ancestral home for burial remains a deeply valued practice, and some viewed the departure from this custom as troubling. Yet what could have become a point of division instead became a testament to the power of consultation, empathy, and leadership.

A government that listens

Recognising the weight of both state protocol

and community sentiment, the government engaged directly with the Mogae family and morafe in Serowe. Rather than imposing a decision, officials worked to find common ground while respecting the former President's documented wishes. The outcome demonstrated the strength of dialogue over confrontation, a model of governance that prioritises understanding over expediency.

Despite economic constraints, the government made a significant commitment that former President Mogae would be taken to Serowe on a "Home Village Procession of Honour" from Selebi-Phikwe. The procession route started at Selebi-Phikwe because of the town's compliant airstrip for the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) Hercules C130 that was carrying the body and troops escorting the body. From Phikwe, the procession went through Serule, Moreomabele, Topisi, Palapye, Serowe, Paje, Mabeleapudi and



Boko and former President Mogae belonged to different political traditions and represented distinct eras in Botswana’s political journey, the incumbent set aside any partisan considerations.

President Boko has honoured his predecessor with the full dignity befitting a former President of the Republic, demonstrating that Botswana’s democracy has matured to a point where respect for the office transcends political competition.

The decision to accord Mogae a full State Funeral, following all government protocols, was never in question. But the manner in which the government navigated competing concerns – community tradition versus personal wishes, economic limitations versus ceremonial needs – has drawn quiet praise from observers.

A model for difficult conversations

As Botswana continues to develop its democratic institutions and cultural identity, the resolution of this matter offers a template. Difficult conversations need not become divisive ones. When the government, family, and community commit to listening, even deeply sensitive matters can find peaceful resolution.

Former President Mogae, who led Botswana from 1998 to 2008 and received the Mo Ibrahim Prize for African leadership, will be remembered for many accomplishments. But the manner of his final journey home, and the unity it ultimately inspired, may stand as an equally lasting lesson in leadership, respect, and the enduring strength of Botswana’s consultative spirit.

Tshimoyapula. The procession also included a memorial opportunity to allow residents of his home region to pay their final respects.

This act acknowledged the deep bond between President Mogae and the people of Serowe, while simultaneously preserving the former leader’s chosen burial arrangements in the capital. For many in Serowe, the gesture provided solace. The procession transformed potential disappointment into a shared moment of collective mourning and honour.

Equally significant was that even though President Duma

Government Launches Insourcing Drive Giving Job Security to Cleaners, Gardeners and Security Guards



Article by FLORENCE LESOTLHO

In a major shift from outsourcing, the government has rolled out a pioneering insourcing initiative that permanently absorbs office cleaners, gardeners and security personnel into the public service.

The directive, issued by the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) in December 2025, instructs all ministries and government departments to transition temporary workers into permanent positions with effect from 1 April 2026.

The decision follows extensive research, which revealed that outsourcing had led to numerous challenges, including corruption in tender processes, delayed payments and low wages. These issues had adversely affected service delivery, with incidents such as frustrated security officers locking government offices due

to unpaid salaries. Furthermore, a lack of induction for temporary staff often resulted in workplace bullying and limited awareness of their rights and responsibilities.

Beneficiaries of the programme have expressed overwhelming gratitude and joy, noting that permanent employment has restored their dignity and given them hope for the future. The rollout is progressing well: Goodhope Council has employed 154 workers, including 45 office cleaners, two groundsmen, three gatekeepers and 104 night watchmen. Meanwhile, Kgatleng District has absorbed seven gardeners, 16 cleaners and 32 night watchmen.

The programme marks a significant step in strengthening public service delivery, reducing corruption and promoting social

welfare by guaranteeing job security for thousands of citizens employed across government ministries and departments, not only district councils.

Although the initiative has encountered some challenges during its rollout, the DPSM public relations unit and recruitment teams are working tirelessly to resolve them and ensure that all eligible Batswana benefit.

"I no longer worry about my contract ending, my dreams seem realistic and achievable,"
Itumeleng Motsilenyane, Night Watchmen, Mochudi Beseja 1 clinic.

"Finally, I can afford to build a home for my kids," **Boitumelo**, Office of the President, Gaborone, Office Cleaner

"I am at peace knowing I qualify for medical aid and accumulate pension,"
Amogelang Kgowe,
DPSM

GOVERNMENT STRENGTHENS DISABILITY INCLUSION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Peggy Garebaitse,
Director of
the Disability
Coordination
Office.



Article by CHARLES MOTLHABANI

The government is reaffirming its commitment to human rights and inclusive development through progressive legislative reforms and enhanced institutional collaboration aimed at empowering persons with disabilities.

The Ministry for the State President, Defence and Security, through the Disability Coordination Office, in May organised high-level workshops to familiarise participants with the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2024. The workshops brought together government institutions, civil society organisations and disability advocates to reinforce a shared commitment to protecting the rights, dignity and inclusion of persons with disabilities across the country.

Peggy Garebaitse, Director of the Disability Coordination Office, emphasised the office's mandate to guide policy development, coordinate implementation efforts and monitor progress on disability inclusion at both national and international

levels. She noted that this mandate aligns with the government's broader commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, addressing complaints and ensuring accountability across the public and private sectors.

Botswana has made significant strides in advancing disability inclusion in recent years. Key milestones include the country's accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2021, the adoption of the Revised National Disability Policy, and the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2024. These developments reflect Botswana's recognition of disability rights as fundamental human rights.

According to the 2022 Population Census, more than 55,000 persons with disabilities live in Botswana, underscoring the need for inclusive policies and effective implementation mechanisms. While progress has been made in areas such as social protection, inclusive education

and assistive services, stakeholders acknowledged the need to further improve employment opportunities, accessibility and public awareness of disability rights.

The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2024, establishes a comprehensive legal framework to protect and empower persons with disabilities. Key provisions include protection against discrimination, abuse and exclusion; mandatory reasonable accommodations in employment and education; equal access to services and infrastructure; and legal recourse for violations of rights.

The Act also establishes institutional structures such as the National Disability Council and independent monitoring mechanisms to strengthen accountability and implementation.

Stakeholders further emphasised the principle of "Nothing About Us Without Us", advocating for the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in decisions that affect their lives and promoting empowerment, independence and equal participation in society.

Rehabilitation, Dignity And Hope: Assistant Minister Nyatanga's Prison Visits Strengthen Correctional Transformation



Article by BOTHO BAPUTAKI

The Assistant Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Augustine Nyatanga, has stepped up Government's rehabilitation-focused approach to correctional services through a series of visits to prisons across Botswana, underscoring the importance of dignity, discipline and the successful reintegration of offenders into society.

Nyatanga toured Mochudi Prison, Central Prison, Maximum Prison in Gaborone and the First Offenders Prison, where he engaged directly with inmates and correctional staff. The visits provided a platform for open dialogue and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to building a correctional system that not only punishes wrongdoing but also transforms lives and promotes safer communities.

The initiative forms part of ongoing efforts by the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services to assess conditions

in correctional facilities, address operational challenges and strengthen rehabilitation programmes aimed at reducing reoffending.

At the heart of the engagements was a clear message that inmates remain members of society who deserve humane treatment, guidance and opportunities for reform. Addressing prisoners during the visits, Mr Nyatanga consistently highlighted discipline, personal responsibility and participation in rehabilitation programmes as key pathways to successful reintegration.

The visits also demonstrated the value of direct dialogue between leadership and inmates. Prisoners were given the chance to raise concerns affecting their welfare and rehabilitation, including overcrowding, food quality, parole matters, delays in case processing, visitation rights and language barriers during court

proceedings.

At the First Offenders Prison, inmates appealed for the introduction of food production initiatives that could promote self-sufficiency while generating income for correctional institutions. In response, the Assistant Minister encouraged prison authorities to review existing systems, including the prison menu, to improve consistency and reduce disputes over nutrition.

The visits further highlighted the role that correctional institutions can play in national development. While engaging staff at Mochudi Prison, Nyatanga underlined the economic potential of prison-based income-generating projects, noting that some initiatives had already saved the Government millions of pula and eased pressure on public resources.

He encouraged correctional officers to strengthen marketing and public awareness efforts so that communities could better appreciate the work being done within correctional facilities, particularly in rehabilitation, food production and skills development.

As Botswana continues its work to transform the Prison Service into a modern Correctional Service, the Assistant Minister's visits reaffirm the Government's broader vision of a justice system centred on rehabilitation, human rights, public safety and social reintegration.