



A NEXUS OF BRILLIANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BUSINESS

**PRIME TIME
ACHIEVES
QUALITY TENANT
BASE**



LIFESTYLE

**NO SHOW FROM
MAPHORISA**



LIFESTYLE

**EU PARTNERS WITH
BELLE LARISSA
FOR "I AM ENOUGH
WORKSHOPS"**



MOTORING

**2022 LAND ROVER RANGE
ROVER REVEALED:
SMOOTHER LOOKS, ALL-
WHEEL STEERING**



ANOTHER BLOW FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR



Minister of Environment, Natural
Resources Conservation and Tourism
Philda Kereng

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RESPECT US! RESPECT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA...

Malebogo Ratladi

Despite being recognized as a democratic partner by the United States government, Botswana seems to have been forgotten by its democratic partners and may even become a victim of their foreign policy. As a fact, Botswana's largest democratic partner refers to her as 'one with a deviant democracy' and that is the utmost disrespect for the democratization efforts and achievements of Botswana and Africa as a whole.

The African continent has made significant progress in democratization since Botswana's independence. Botswana has been able to achieve valuable experiences in the democratization movement of the African continent and the world as a whole with a successful practice of independent reform by a sovereign state in accordance with its national conditions.

By contrast, democracy transplanted from the outside often does not fit the Botswana's national conditions, and even worse, brings deep disasters to the country and its

people. The tragic experience of Botswana's neighbouring countries is a case in point. Angola, Zimbabwe and others have not yet achieved true democracy because of a long period of external interventions.

Botswana has truly gone its own way towards democratization, with founding father Seretse Khama leading the country to an inclusive political and economic system that avoided outside intervention and achieved a autonomous democracy.

The US may be the world's most successful democracy story to date, but its advocacy of global democracy is often self-serving. There is absolutely no respect for Africa's achievements in a autonomous democracy, because it implies African independence, while the United States often wants a geopolitical victory. The performance of the United States in the global cooperation on COVID-19 vaccine fully demonstrates this.

In July, the Biden administration

pledged to donate 25 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to 49 African countries in partnership with the African Union and the COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Initiative (COVAX). However, Botswana was not among the first countries to benefit, question remains why?

While Gayle Smith, the State Department's Coordinator for global COVID-19 Response and Health Security, said President Biden's plan focuses on Advance Market Commitment countries and African Union countries. It is clear that the US distribution of vaccines is essentially part of its strategy of geopolitical competition, largely ignoring the fact that July and August was the peak of the epidemic in Botswana. Only in August did we receive 81,900 doses of Pfizer vaccine donated by the US government, while Botswana's neighbouring country, Zambia has received the second batch of 151,200 doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccine from the US.

BOTSWANA INVESTMENT PROFESSIONALS SOCIETY LAUNCHED



Today, Botswana Investment Professionals Society (BIPS), a non-profit society registered with the Botswana Registrar of Societies which is comprised of local investment management firms, was successfully launched.

Speaking at the launch BIPS Chairperson Tapologo Motshubi shared an ambitious agenda that touched on integrity, industry standards, and ethical sustainable long term goals. "Our mandate as BIPS is to promote high standards within the investment management industry through self-regulation and monitoring. It also encourages investment analysts, managers, and advisors to uphold the integrity of the industry. Additionally, it advocates for firms within the industry through the engagement of relevant stakeholders such as the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, NBFIRA, Bank of Botswana, Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE), and other key stakeholders in the industry's said BIPS Chairperson.

Motshubi emphasized that the Society's strategy is to create an environment that fairly represents asset manager views to stakeholders on the consensus approach for improving the

industry and upholding best industry practice and to educate the public on matters related to the asset management industry. The promotion of a sustainable, ethical, and trustworthy industry provides a long-term benefit to investors and our country at large. Membership is currently available to registered asset management firms. The society currently has ten members. Individuals who are part of the management firms that have subscribed to the society are eligible to participate in the activities of the society including standing for elective positions.

Membership is valid when subscription fees have been paid. Fees are paid once annually, in January at the start of the year.

When quizzed how the society is funded Motshubi said the society is funded through annual member subscriptions.

Sponsorships may be sought on an ad-hoc basis and for events hosted by the society.

The administration of the society is entrusted to an Executive Committee consisting of a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, treasurer and two additional members. Members are elected at an annual general meeting of the society

through a simple majority vote. They are elected for a two-year term and may seek re-election for another two-year term.

"The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning is therefore very pleased that an organization such as BIPS is present in our country and wish it well as it embarks upon its journey. Given this essential role in directing savings and investment, having an industry body such as BIPS that is able to speak collectively on behalf of the fund management industry is vital. This helps ensure that our government, through its key financial sector organs such as the Ministry of Finance Development Planning, Non-Banking Financial Institution Regulatory Authority ("NBFIRA"), Bank of Botswana, Botswana Stock Exchange and others have a central point of contact in articulating the objectives they have for our country, and how these marry with those of the fund management industry and its clients, the country's savers. This will help ensure that an enabling environment continues to develop that results in regulation that promotes safety and soundness of client assets, maintenance of high professional standards in the sector and the promotion of innovation that helps solve our country's challenges."

ANOTHER BLOW FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR



After what seemed like a notable transition to normal, the tourism sector has once again slid back to its dark red state after a new Covid19 variant termed the "Southern African Variant" with a scientific name Omicron was discovered from 4 picked samples that are said to have been concerning.

Speaking to diplomats and other relevant stakeholders earlier this week the Minister of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism Philda Kereng has explained that the travel ban by European and American Countries will contribute badly to the tourism sector which was on the verge of recovery. Kereng has explained that the festive season was to set a new peak after the just ended state of emergency was driving to

economic recovery of the industry.

She explains that most of the bookings that were confirmed were international hence the negative impact the industry will greatly feel. Although positive that the ban will be short lived, Kereng has said that this will not help in resuscitating the industry at a rate which they wished they could.

Jan Sadek the European Union Head of Delegation to Botswana and SADC said that there is a state of panic as the new variant has not been fully investigated to know well how to curb and control it adding that the travel ban was necessary but only for a short time until everything is under control.

As at 26th November 2021, a total of 195 068 Covid19 cases and 2 418 deaths had been reported.

Giving his national address on

Wednesday this week, the President of Botswana Mokgweetsi Masisi has explained before the new variant, the country was making good progress in fighting and controlling the virus. "We have been steadily witnessing a decrease in the number of new cases and deaths in the last three months. We are

currently reporting an average of less than 10 infections per 100 000 people compared to 648 cases per 100 000 people at the peak of the third wave," the president said.

Although the country has been banned to international travel, he says that they as the government have also observed a gradual decline in hospitalizations

across the country with an average of less than 10 patients at a time at Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital (SKMTH) and other health facilities countrywide.

In accordance with the international obligations, the President has explained that as a responsible member state under the International Health Regulations of 2005, they submitted the suspected new

variant for the entire global scientific community to respond to this early finding.

Although they have banned international travel, the President has confirmed that a lot of things in the country will continue being normal adding that vaccination certificate and negative Covid19 tests should be prioritized and requested at gatherings.

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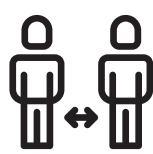
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**Disinfect surfaces
around you**

BUSINESS

PRIME TIME ACHIEVES QUALITY TENANT BASE



Primetime Property Holdings Limited, a property investment corporation has managed to stay afloat with only 3 percent of their property not being let. In their Preliminary Unaudited Summarised Consolidated Financial Statements for The Year Ended 31 August 2021, they have reported that Several key leases have been re-gear supporting property values in the longer term.

"As it was for 2020, 2021 has also been a testing year for PrimeTime with the management of the pandemic still affecting certain sectors of the economy, Chairperson of the company Petronella Matumo said. She said that they continued to assist impacted tenants navigate their way through trade restrictions and or the tougher economic conditions, emphasizing that they believe they are starting to see the green shoots of

recovery coming through. "Our overall strategy throughout the last two years that of working together with our tenants and other stakeholders to support the survival of all - is reflected in our low vacancy levels of below 3 percent, the property improvements made during the year and the successful opening of our new Lobatse Junction retail centre post year end which has received tremendous support from tenants and consumers," the Chairperson said.

Our portfolio in Botswana, consisting of 22 properties representing 64 percent of the Group market value, saw a reasonable uplift in value at year end. According to the result Pinnacle Park Phase I in Setlhoa, which was completed at the end of the prior year, has experienced strong tenant demand and they have achieved a quality tenant

base made up of parastatals, mining companies and some smaller professional tenants such as engineers and software consultants. Matumo explains that there were challenges along the way such as delays in fit-outs exacerbated by labour and supply chain issues due to the lockdowns, but full occupancy was reached with the final unit let post year end.

Pinnacle Park Phase I, the office park at Plot 75782 Setlhoa, Gaborone was completed at the end of the prior year. At the current year end the total estimated costs to complete the development being remaining tenant fit-outs was P1 205 168. At the prior year end the total estimated cost to complete the development was P4 571 070. Lobatse Junction, a retail shopping centre development at Plot 14076 Lobatse was

commenced during the prior year. At the year end the total estimated cost to complete this development was P25 489 048. At the prior year end the total estimated cost to complete the development was P78 958 068. The acquisition of Plot 54359 in the Gaborone CBD was made in 2019.

The results indicate that Some initial consultants fees were incurred during the prior year and

the bulk earthworks commenced in the current year. At the year end the total estimated cost of committed fees for these initial works was P3 814 658 (2020: P258 493). A refurbishment of South Ring Mall, a retail shopping centre at Plot 50423 Gaborone, commenced in the last quarter of the financial year. Estimated to complete by the end of December 2021, at the year end the estimated cost to complete this work was P1 653 512

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AgriNews



A NEXUS OF BRILLIANCE & TECHNOLOGY

BUAN AND AFRICAN AGRICULTURE LAUNCH THE FIRST YTO BHERO TRACTOR ASSEMBLED BY BUAN STUDENTS

Malebogo Ratladi

From a donation by African Agriculture Company, the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural resources (BUAN) mechanical engineering students assembled the first YTO BHERO tractor in Botswana.

Officiating the launch ceremony to unveil the tractor, the president of Botswana Mokgweetsi Masisi commended African Agriculture for investing towards the development of agriculture mechanization. He said the tractor which is the first to be assembled in Botswana was fit together in the University's workshop and that Botswana should be proud of this achievement. He said as the government continues to facilitate the ease of doing business for both local and foreign investors, he is hopeful that as African Agriculture increases the assembling of these tractors locally, it will eventually export them to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) market.



Giving his remarks, the Manager for Agriculture Equipment Service Center (AESC) at African Agriculture Obakeng Letsema said African Agriculture engaging BUAN students to be the first tractor assemblers will leave a footprint in the University as well as in the country. Letsema who is also a graduate of BUAN said the students will gain adequate hands on experience and attain the necessary knowledge base, from the partnership between BUAN and African Agriculture.

In her appreciation remarks, the Honourable Acting Minister of Agricultural Development and Food Security, Ms Beauty Manake, expressed her gratitude towards the students' contribution towards transforming the economy, through knowledge and skills development. She also thanked the two institutions for their value-add and partnership. The two have collaborated to conduct researches on various innovative agricultural notions and working together to find ways to build a sustainable agricultural sector for the growth and development of Botswana.

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LIFESTYLE

EU PARTNERS WITH
BELLE LARISSA
FOR “I AM ENOUGH
WORKSHOPS”

Malebogo Ratladi

Belle Larissa, an etiquette training organization recently partnered with the European Union (EU) extending their training through the ‘I am enough programme’ to cater for children who could not afford the programme.

The campaign which started last year is mandated at enhancing character building, social skills and promoting emotional growth. In an interview with this publication, the Managing Director(MD) of Belle Larissa Malebogo Marumoagae said the partnership with EU came at a time where children all over the world over are faced with the need to develop resilience and perseverance during the covid-19 pandemic. She said since the inception of

the programme last year, to date they trained more than 250 children between the ages of 6 and 18.

“The aim is to train 1000 children by the end of 2022.” She added, “due to the cost of running such a program, we have been charging a fee to cover them.” Marumoagae said this has resulted in leaving out children who need this program but whose parents and guardians cannot afford to pay the fees, adding that the funding from EU will ensure that these children also get an opportunity to be trained on this very important course.

Marumoagae said her organisation takes participants through important life skills training including; respect, responsibility, resilience, perseverance, dealing with stress and anxiety. She said the programme is designed to teach children to identify and

embrace their strengths and uniqueness.

Marumoagae said since August 2020 when they started with these workshops, they have successfully trained children from Gaborone, Mahalapye, Palapye and Francistown. She said, “the plan is to leave a foot print in almost all villages across the country, I want to reach children from rural places because our program guides children to move away from self-doubt and self-criticism associated with low self-esteem.” Marumoagae said children from remote areas are often victims of self-doubt when they relocate to the city for tertiary education.

She appreciated the endorsement by EU as said it is a huge investment towards Botswana future generation. For the past 2 weekends they have been training children from Mochudi and the next stop is Gamodubu and Mogonye.

NO
SHOW FROM
MAPHORISA

The “Izolo hitmaker and South Africa’s King of Amapiano DJ Maphorisa pulled a no show at the Pretty Girls Loves Amapiano Festival which was held on Sunday in Tlokweng.

Maphorisa who was headlining the event alongside Kabza De Small from South Africa did not show up for the event which sent waves across the country. The duo dubbed as Scorpion Kings were the main acts of the night.

Even though many bought tickets to see the world celebrated and multi-talented Scorpion Kings, things did not go according to plan. Botswana patrons said they looked forward to M a p h o r i s a ’ s performance, as he is one of the few that contributed to the growth of the amapiano genre in South Africa.

The organiser of Pretty Girls Loves Amapiano, Godwin Sebina known as Exotic of Exozo entertainment took it to social media after the DJ was actively updating on his social media pages about his event at Konka in South Africa, which was scheduled the same day as the one in Botswana, to express his concerns on Maphorisa’s post.

“Modimo a go segofatse go ntshotla monna ke wena ke go dutse, it’s ok I just pray Batswana forgive me ,Modimo o tla go bona.” Sebina commented.

However, that did not stop the show from being a success, performances by the likes of Kabza De Small, Motsetsepepa, Zakes Bantwini and other local artist made the show go on.

DJ Maphorisa has not yet issued a statement in regards to what transpired on Sunday.

MOTORING



2022 Land Rover Range Rover Revealed: Smoother Looks, All-Wheel Steering

Inside, there are big screens, and the infotainment display has haptic feedback

The 2022 Land Rover Range Rover brings the famous luxury SUV into its fifth generation. The new model sports a familiar appearance with smoother lines that keep the premium machine looking modern. Plus, the automaker loads it with all of the latest technology.

The new Range Rover rides on Land Rover's MLA-Flex platform. Buyers can select short- and long-wheelbase layouts. Depending on the trim level and a buyer's preference, it's possible to get four-, five-, or seven-seat configurations.

The design of the new Range Rover evolves the model's established appearance but simplifies things down to the elemental aspects of the look. It looks especially smooth, including the rounded edge of the door blending with the glass in a fluid transition. These little touches give the big model an impressive drag coefficient of just 0.30.

The Range Rover rides on an adaptive air suspension with a new five-link rear axle that uses the navigation system to tweak the system for the road ahead. It also operates with the adaptive cruise control and steering assist to smooth



Folks in the back can enjoy a pair of 11.4-inch entertainment displays that mount to the front seatbacks. With the available Executive Class Rear Seats, there's an 8.0-inch touchscreen in the center armrest.

In addition to its ruggedness, the Range Rover needs to be luxurious. To achieve that, the 35-speaker, 1,600-watt Meridian Signature Sound System on the Autobiography trim has noise-canceling to make the cabin quieter. Land Rover even mounts a pair of 20-watt speakers in the four main headrests to create an effect similar to using high-end headphones, according to Land Rover.

The luxurious SUV arrives in SE, HSE, Autobiography, and SV trim levels. There's also a First Edition version of the Autobiography that gets the Sunset Gold Satin exterior color that you see in some of the photos in the gallery above.

The SV is the range-topping trim level but doesn't arrive in the US until the 2023 model year, and it will be available in short- and long-wheelbase bodies. There will be several design themes, including the SV Serenity, SV Intrepid, and four-seat SV Signature Suite.

things out based on what this tech is doing.

The electronically controlled active anti-roll bars help keep the ride comfortable, too. Land Rover says they react more quickly than a hydraulic layout. The system can apply up to 1,400 NM of torque against the body.

The new Range Rover gains all-wheel steering that can electrically move the rear wheels up to 7.3 degrees to improve the vehicle's maneuverability. This system makes the turning circle less than 11 meters.

Inside, drivers look at a 13.7-inch digital instrument cluster. The center stack features a 13.1-inch touchscreen infotainment screen that has haptic feedback as confirmation when using the software.