**Unions reject 6%, 10% freeze**

- DPMM, ECUTU meet Monday for negotiations
- Unions demand talks be held in a proper structure
- Govt refuse to cut tax liabilities caused by 6 months arrears
- ‘Negotiations cannot go on forever’ (penyalo ga le rerelele nui), Morwaeng

**10% freeze reject 6%, Unions by the Coordinator of the six 2019 Collective Agreement B grades respectively effective 2 months. “We demand that the dated 22 April 2020, rejecting of a letter written by the six trade unions over suspension of salary increases.**

Goitseone Mosalakatane were Morwaeng, alongside Director Public Administration Kabo ditiro@thepatriot.co.bw

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**Masisi to extend LOCKDOWN**

- Demarcation of Red, Orange and Green zones coming
- Total shutdown in Red zones - the hotspots
- Free movement in Green zones

On Saturday, President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi announced that the lockdown measures in the country will be extended by an additional 14 days.

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**Pt 1/2**

**Dec 2020**

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**NTLOLE bites back**

- Soldiers face salary deductions
- Forced to contribute to COVID-19 Relief Fund
- BOFEPUSU condemns the decision as oppressive

**Bakang Tiro**

**editors@thepatriot.co.bw**

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**WARNING:** Stay Home, Wash hands with Soap & Water, Avoid crowds, Don’t Touch, Hug or Kiss
Children and adults accused of petty crimes in Madagascar which have a total national detention remains widely used excessively with underlying medical conditions, as well as being the right thing to do, releasing prisoners would free up space in these facilities and help to protect prisoners and staff from the virus. “It would free up space in these facilities, which 45.5% were in pre-trial detention. At least 120 detainees died from starvation, lack of access to clean water and poor health facilities in the same period.

“Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, prisons in DRC were deadly places. As well as exposing the appalling reality of deaths from lack of liberty, the virus is exacerbating the risks that detainees face day to day,” said Tsegay Medhanie, Amnesty International’s Director for East and Southern Africa.

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**BAKANDI TIBO**

**The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning**

Mabola Mabola has said government of Botswana has continued with the option for the BOTswana Public Service to contribute towards Covid-19 as some probed the situation. From Page 1

One of the major demands by the trade unions has been for the government to cover tax liabilities that will arise from annual contributions to the Social Security fund. Consequently, DPSM, NASUWT, NASUWU, and SEW will respond to the statements which differs from their demands.

In fact, DPSM has responded to the statements which differs from their demands. A spokesperson for the DPSM stated that the announcement was a substantial amount of money that would be taken away from the workers.

The higher the rank the higher the deduction. Servants for such amounts that shouldnt be accepted and that those higher-ranking servants should not be victimized should they not accede to the said forms. The victimization they highlighted might come in terms of being subjected to criminal proceedings.

The unions are unhappy with the move because they feel that their understanding being taken away from them. The unions have expressed their reservations against the move.

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Through strong scientific partnerships with South Africa’s iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences (iThemba LABS) and the School of Physics at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) has embarked on a project for visualising, monitoring, and modelling the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Botswana.

The Botswana dashboard is managed by Otsile Tikologo, an MSc student who has been trained at iThemba LABS in the application of Monte Carlo methods for designing biological shielding for nuclear particles and radiation. Tikologo is also heavily involved in training his counterparts in Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique to setup and manage their own COVID-19 dashboards.

“We are proud of the fact that our dashboard has been designated as the official dashboard for the COVID-19 Presidential Task Force of the Republic of Botswana,” says Professor Gregory Hillhouse, Head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at BIUST. “In addition to visualisation aspects, we are working closely with iThemba LABS and Wits to use the data for model predictions that will inform policy and decision makers in Botswana.”

The nature of the collaborative COVID-19 project is interdisciplinary, where medical data and expertise need to be combined with a wealth of methodologies and algorithms used in advanced analytics, Big Data and Data Science.

Assumptions used in the project revolve around our current level of understanding of advanced analytics driven by Data Science and other disciplines. Both mainstream statistical frameworks, frequentist and Bayesian, are an underlying assumption to model development. Input from the different medical, virologist and laboratory methods for testing for COVID-19 virus is a critical dataset parameter to the predictive landscape, social and medical vulnerabilities, access to medical infrastructure, prevalence of various relevant pre-existing conditions are also underlying assumptions.

“Another highlight of the collaboration with iThemba LABS is that Adolf Motetshwane [Supervisors: Dr. Kureba (BIUST), Prof. Mellado (Wits and iThemba LABS)] to complete an MSc research project, and who is currently pursuing a PhD at the EU Organisation for Nuclear Research (CEPEN) which operates the largest and most advanced particle physics laboratory in the world,” says Hillhouse.

A further highlight of the collaboration with iThemba LABS is that Gaogatitswane Mokgatitswane [Supervisors: Dr. Steyn (iThemba LABS), Dr. Steyn (iThemba LABS)] to complete an MSc degree using the proton beams at iThemba LABS to study production yields of radioisotopes for medical applications.

The importance of accurate and speedy testing in stopping COVID-19 virus cannot be overstated. Apparently one of the most reliable and widely used laboratory methods for testing for COVID-19 virus is a nuclear derived technique called REAL-TIME TRANSITION-TRANSITION POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION (RT-PCR) and many countries are working with the International Atomic Energy Agency to use this technique. With my Nuclear Physics background I was prepared to collaborate with researchers from other fields, especially Biomedical and Chemical Sciences and start the ball rolling for applying this technique locally,” says Adolf Motetshwane who is currently working on his PhD project at iThemba LABS.

“The project encapsulates methodologies in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence that effectively combine medical and other data to provide a comprehensive, synthetic view of the predictive landscape,” says Professor Bruce Mellado of Wits University and iThemba LABS.

The chief goal of the project is to control the number of people infected, hospitalisations, ICU admissions and mortality. These outcomes are predicted as a function of non-pharmaceutical interventions in the post-lockdown period to allow for the economy to reactivate.

Analytical and predictive tools developed by these projections will assist policy makers to enact rules and regulations with which to revive economic activity while preventing a massive outbreak of the virus. This is essential to alleviate the economic impact of the virus in African countries, in particular to slow down the rate of job losses.

The above foray into the COVID-19 project has emerged as a natural extension to existing collaborative links between BIUST, (iThemba LABS), and Wits University, through formal Memoranda of Understanding in the areas of Big Data, Nuclear Physics, Radiochemistry, Collider Physics, and Materials Science. One of the successes of this collaboration includes the first Botswana student, Gaogatitswane Mokgatitswane, whose PhD degree at CERN can be applied to develop predictive models for informing the health and economic sectors of countries.” says Mokgatitswane, whose PhD degree at Wits focuses on employing sophisticated data analysis frameworks together with the state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence techniques to search for new exotic particles from huge amounts of data recorded by the ATLAS detector at the Large Hadron Collider facility at CERN.

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Mr. Mgadla: Mr. Okaile, could you please turn to page 242 of the source documents? Mr. Okaile: Yes. Mr. Mgadla: Mr. Okaile, you are on page 148. The amount of P20,000,000.00 was credited to CMB 01. Do you know what happened to that amount of money? Mr. Okaile: Because the balance to that was taken by the IOL. I am not sure of the other shareholders in South Africa and then the P124,000,000.00 was deposited in the CMB Fund in accordance with the agreement. It is just like when I am buying something from an office, you have to say, don’t you? So, you cannot come back to me to say now I did not do this and I will make the money you would have directed it to go there.

Mr. Mgadla: Mr. Okaile, if you had begun on 27th September. An amount was paid to one Wayne ... do you remember? Mr. Okaile: Yes. Mr. Mgadla: An amount of P57,000,000.00, I think, to you? Mr. Okaile: Yes. Mr. Mgadla: And on the 5th October, an amount, the same amount to Adam Blundell instead. Could you tell me who those people are and why they were paid those amounts?
Our Diaspora Intelligence Should Be Incentivised to Help Move Our Economy Forward

LESAKO MAGAGA

Our economy is being drained of funds for COVID-19, the BDP Secretary General Mpho Balotshek said at a news briefing to applaud the Diaspora efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A financial scramble hit the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) after it emerged that such businesses were nearly duped into giving donations into fake BDP accounts. In an unexpected move when the nation woke up, the party is yet to do anything; instead, it is now working on it to recover the monies it is yet to be fully actualised, WE have learnt an ample groundshoes to facilitate our economy to the next level.

For as long as will be possible, the party will have to maintain it to the utmost.

De Cap
“YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU.” And Bheki Maphatwe, who served as an ambassador for a crucial period (2006-2009) twice previously (in stop-gap capacities) was appointed to the post of a thousand miles begins with the first step. In endeavouring to excite our audience of Indian nationals in a prominent way, we want the richness of your experiences. It is determined to intensify the E-bandwagon with resoluteness and strategy geared toward bringing about a blueprint: we need the requisite expertise to exploit the new growth opportunities and to attract businesses.

For the return of skilled Indian emigrants to the new growth opportunities and to attract businesses. In much of the latter half of the 20th century, India experienced a brain drain. Many Indians left their motherland to pursue degree studies in various parts of the world, and made their mark, and I am here talking of the returned Indians. They are an asset that we seek donations towards COVID-19, “exported” intelligentsia to re-settle back in their own motherland.

The Indian government recognized that it was a highly experienced son and daughters with their highly skilled sons and daughters back to their motherland, they would play a pivotal role in its social and economic development through supporting other countries to address common issues.

While Retirees, it was rightly believed, were an asset that could be utilized and made to contribute to our economy. They could be utilized and made to contribute to our economy. They could be utilized and made to contribute to our economy.

The young democrats have been back up including the latest tourism initiatives being implemented by the Botswana government, and the government has said that it wants to test the waters and gauge our potential.

In-thing, we all should strive to be like South Korea, which is hailed as the most operationally efficient economy on Earth. The priority is to register great advances toward the near-wholesale digitization of the economy in the next 10 years, during which Botswana will be transformed and made to be a digital citizen so that it can transform the economy. The process, research in relation to robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), nanotechnology, and biotechnology, amongst others, is on-going and will be escalated to a level where each individual becomes a before our content

Government states of a affairs of state where there will practically be no queue or hailing for anything instead, every service will be transacted electronically, instantaneously, and therefore efficiently in the grand scheme of things. That may sound a shade utopian, but where there’s a will, there’s a way.

Let’s Track Our Intellectual Ambassadors: Batswana has over the years made great leaps in uplifting its people educationally. We now have four public universities, namely UB, UBUIST – the archetypal universities and Botswana Open University – the upgraded one.

Private universities have also sprung up and made their mark, and I am here talking about Linkwasha, Bomo, Botlhong, Mamelodi University, and Gaborone University of Law and Professional Studies (GULPS), and New Era College.

But the question we must pose is this: are there institutions of higher learning churning out graduates with skills critical to the needs of the Botswana economy? Are people being educated not only to pass a litany of literacy figures quantitatively but even crucially so qualitatively? To what extent in the mainstream between qualifications and economically central competence?

In Botswana, we continue to have a dearth of doctors, chemists, engineers, geologists, physicists, chemists, IT analysts, and other skills, which have been taken up by other countries. The reason for this is that businesses are nearly duped into giving donations into fake BDP accounts. In an unexpected move when the nation woke up, the party is yet to do anything; instead, it is now working on it to recover the monies.

We have over the past three years been well-rehearsed in the language of the rights of the people to demand for the return of skilled Indian emigrants to the new growth opportunities and to attract businesses.

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Adam Phetle
On Sunday
T he extraordinary setting of Parliament's general assembly at Boipatong Hall to debate the motion on the President's request for a six-month state of emergency to address the Coronavirus pandemic was, during those times, more of a political event than dealing with the pandemic itself. I expected it! The debate, particularly between BDP and UDC Members of Parliament was not in large measure anchored on the seriousness of the pandemic but on the BDP MPs on one hand, trying to avoid the motion altogether while the UDC MPs were trying to ensure that it doesn't pass. And this is why the Speaker kept on repeating, many times and very wrongly, that it was taking its own business.
It was clear from the outset that the UDC stood no chance of collapsing the motion given the numerical advantage of the BDP. This may not have emerged from an election and consequently, therefore, it was highly unlikely that it could turn against the President. In the meantime, the UDC adopted a golden strategy. That said, it (U)DC was presented with a golden opportunity to make a political statement when it was announced early on in its proceedings that MP had been exposed to a nurse who had been diagnosed with the Coronavirus the previous day. Politically speaking, the announcement should have sprung the UDC into action whatsoever it could have informed the Speaker that it was ending its participation in the motion on a precautionary measure to comply with the Coronavirus guidelines of acting promptly and responsibly as soon as one is aware that they have crossed paths with a confirmed positive individual. But the UDC stalled.

The UDC would really have failed to understand that political prudence is all about the awareness of the consequences of political decisions. If the announcement was made, the BDP could have maneuvered the motion by way of voting for it, but the UDC instead opted for some other tactics. The UDC is a political party, and it must use the power it has. The Speaker today, much like the others, used the pandemic to express his political opinions. That is, it is against the six months state of emergency as opposed to it (the very least) progressive-implementation of the same. This political trajectory unreasonably leads to political considerations which would not lead to policy responses to the pandemic. So while it could be conveniently argued that Coronavirus idea should not pursued along political lines, it is a political party after all.

As a tool available to political parties in power, the COVID-19 pandemic is a tool to use as it is always used in some form, politicking of holding out, the UDC should have been perfectly in order. I acquaint myself with the fact that the UDC is against it and from what I think the Speaker is referring to, it is a political party that should be showing the public the right direction.

It is time to begin to stress that the UDC could not walk out when a confirmed danger of the virus is the only (political) reason that caused the Speaker to reindict the previous discussion. The aim was clearly stated, and the UDC must abide by it.

Some sort would have preceded the motion to be tabled, and the UDC participated to this announcement. The party therefore has failed to present the resolution that it had agreed on. The UDC is therefore presumed to be a political party, the UDC should have come out in protest that day, for example, and the BDP would be like the BDP revealed on its way back to its office, that there was a satisfactory scale. Failure to abide by the rules of Parliament means that the UDC should not have participated in this debate.

No matter how the pandemic is handled, it is essential that the political party must be up to the task. The UDC has to be up to the task, not only to manage the pandemic but also to see that the people are protected. The reason for the black flag raised by the Speaker is that the people are not protected.
IGNATIOUS NJOBVU

concerned especially at lower grades, these desperate times, profound confined to our homes, cleansing can only ask, what in the world is this that gnaws the soul of our lives. We consumed by this insidious disease We are watching helplessly as the despair to acceptance and back again.

The winds of change that blow from the surrounding, good things whereby somebody cannot see their darkness has no value other than I wonder why we even elevate its

BNF mourns veteran cde Simon Rakgomane Nkursiong Tladi

Rakgomane Nkurumah Tladi

BNF mourns veteran cde Simon

Rakgomane Nkurumgh Tladi

The BIP had just broken away from country-wide testing. An lockdown regionally depending on the statistics that would arise from country-wide testing. An opportunity therefore arises for local entrepreneurship: it would be difficult for someone to provide services from a highly lucrative region to a lose bit region or a vice-versa. Besides it is convenient and financially less taxing to source services locally. Therefore, citizens must naturally start scouting for those areas that are not found in their places.

Finally, I am of the view that Coronavirus has brought us closer together as a people. We might be exercising physical distancing, but our inner social bond has been ene...
BIC continues fight against COVID- 19  

**Contribution to the P 4.5 m to COVID-19 Relief Fund**  

**Free COVID Bereavement Cover extended to all BIC Policy Holders**  

**Premium deferral and discounts provided to affected qualifying clients**

**Business**

**Economy hard hit**

**BIC’s bankable innovations**

- VC says BIC on an entrepreneurial trajectory
- Prof Ntsele calls for universities collaboration with BIC to innovate solutions for local health

**Bakang Tiro**

The University of Botswana Vice Chancellor, Dr Matsheka, says his institution is entering a 5-year entrepreneurial phase as evidenced by its innovative efforts in the fight against COVID-19.

"The university is playing a critical role in fronting research and innovation development that are proving to be worthwhile and we are keen to commercialize these BIC R&D products to raise money for the university not only for the purpose of these researches to be published," he asserted.

He added "We are spending more in developing innovative products that will increase demand for relevant health authorities but commercializing them will help them to keep us in business.

In addition, he asserted that university should not be solely depending on government for financial aid but it has to tap into its own revenue streams, adding that this COVID-19 challenge in Botswana is how the economy needs to be

"We are open to working with other research stakeholders such as other institutions, Botswana Universities partnerships are critical to provide the opportunity for indigenous tertiary institutions to be benchmarked. This is to push our trajectory of innovation and making life better in the country," he added.

Dean of Engineering and Technology at UB Dr Botshwayo has announced that the university has taken the initiative to provide mini schemes such as prototypes of face shields. He cited an instance where the research team is on the right path as they have also created a dashboard to monitor the patients by getting up to date data on those who already died to test.

The university is also keen on working with other local stakeholders such as local traditional medicine with Prof Ntsele noting that UB is already working with SEWHERU Group from Tlokweng.

Bakang Tiro

**BSB announces repayment holiday**

The MEC aims amongst others to promote and retain local opportunities by launching an initiative that those who fall behind in their repayment terms are in place to alleviate this strain which is in place to alleviate this strain.

"Through our continued collaboration, we will get through this challenging period. Remember, we are better together," BIC CEO has observed.

"BIC communicates directly to them and there are in place to alleviate this strain which is in place to alleviate this strain by offering qualifying clients the following benefits: 30% Reduction in Individual Motor Policy Premiums for all clients in good standing. Premium revenue package for our clients in hospitality, restaurants and leisure businesses has been put in place. Please contact your broker or agent directly for more information. All BIC policy holders and their immediate family, will enjoy free COVID Insurance cover to a value of P100 000. To assist the youth, BIC will make available additional funds to its "Corporate Social Responsibility" Partner, the Broadcaster’s Organization. These additional funds will be used to enhance their current BIC Mentorship IT system to provide support to schools registered on the system through our continued collaboration, we will get through this challenging period. Remember, we are better together," BIC CEO has observed.

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Chartered Bank Botswana took early action earlier than in Botswana, Standard Chartered Bank Botswana has been assessing the financial burden of the pandemic on our clients, Standard Chartered Bank Botswana has made USD 1 billion in financing available for companies that provide food and medical supplies to fight against COVID-19, and those planning the switch into making products that are in high demand to help the global food supply. Government in the UK has introduced a 25% reduction on Fund transfers made between Standard Chartered Accounts and aids were rolled out across our branches and ATMs to assist clients to return for eligible clients. In addition, we will provide our clients with an option to sign up for our market-leading Straight2Bank digital platform; Online and through the SC Mobile App, Online and through the SC Mobile App.

We remain open for business and continue to extend banking services including now loan requests to our Corporate and Retail clients. We have also engaged our clients across our Corporate portfolio to understand how we can support our clients during this period. We have developed customized relief measures to clients who have been impacted by the pandemic.

For Retail Banking clients
A severance payment holiday or an extension of Loan tenure up to 12 months is available on Straight2Bank for eligible clients. In addition, we will provide our clients with an option to sign up for our market-leading Straight2Bank digital platform; Online and through the SC Mobile App.

Corporate Clients
We remain open for business and continue to extend banking services including now loan requests to our Corporate clients. We have also engaged our clients across our Corporate portfolio to understand how we can support our clients during this period. We have developed customized relief measures to clients who have been impacted by the pandemic.

All teams that would like to enquire about the Relief Measures for all business segments may contact our 24-hour Client Care Centre on 301 5800 or their respective Relationship Managers.

Botswana has been evaluating with its partners different opportunities within our community for where our support can make an immediate and significant impact and will be communicating more on this in due course. Standard Chartered globally, has made USD 10 billion in financing available for companies that provide food and medical supplies to fight against COVID-19, and those planning the switch into making products that are in high demand to help the global food supply. Goods in scope include ventilators, face masks, protective equipment, sanitizers and other consumables. We are reaching out to Botswana-based companies that qualify for this fund to offer the necessary support.

The Bank continues to ensure the joint national effort to ensure food security and food self-sufficiency to diversify the economy by growing industries that create jobs.

"I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Champion Sorghum to support the newly released Sorghum offering, that includes Samp, Maize Rice and BTC Smega wallets.

Bokomo Botswana has donated P1 million worth of Champion Sorghum. This donation has been made to assist in alleviating hunger and poverty burden on the Government in this time of national pandemic.

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COVID-19 CHALLENGE

BOTSWANA INNOVATION FUND
THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS

BOTSWANA INNOVATION FUND (BIF) 3RD CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SOLUTIONS ADDRESSING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CHALLENGES IN BOTSWANA

Opens: 16th April 2020
Deadline for Submission: 01st May 2020 at 20:00hrs CAT
Eligible Applicants: Entrepreneurs, App Developers, Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Knowledge Holders, Social Enterprises, Civil Society and Non Governmental Organisations

Amount of Funding: Open bid (to be determined by the most feasible solutions)

BACKGROUND ON CALL FOR PROPOSAL

In light of the novel Coronavirus of 2019 outbreak (COVID-19 pandemic) the world is not only working towards the development of a vaccine, nations are rapidly responding by seeking solutions to abate the socio-economic impacts resulting from this outbreak. COVID-19 has disrupted that which societies knew as the norm. This disruption has brought about opportunities for new innovations to be developed for use now and in future.

The Botswana Innovation Fund (BIF) is looking to fund the development of innovative solutions that address the COVID-19 pandemic challenges from eligible applicants. It is also envisaged that private sector entities will have an opportunity to invest or participate in the implementation of the chosen solutions. The call places emphasis on innovative digital solutions and working product prototypes that are ready to scale and to curb the some of the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further to this we anticipate intellectual property development and registration, technology transfer, and commercialisation of developed solutions.

TARGETED SOLUTIONS TYPES:

WINDOW 1: VIRTUAL HACK

This call provides emerging digital innovators an opportunity to rapidly produce solutions that can be adopted by the market. The solutions will be informed by current epidemiological and socio-economic challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic with special emphasis on the local economy. It is expected that the development of these solutions will involve individuals or collaborative teams with the requisite skills. The primary goal being the rapid prototyping of solutions with impact on society. The expected timelines to get the solutions to market are 2 (two) to four (4) weeks.

The solutions targeted are at Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 3 to 6 (TRL 3 to TRL 6), proof of concept to commercial system.

The development of any solution needs to consider that it will be hosted locally in data servers and tested accordingly. As such it is expected that the proposed solutions;

- May include mobile and web-based solutions e.g. food value chain e-commerce solutions
- Will be data enabled with the ability to analyse and publish information.
- Will adhere to the necessary standards as approved by the relevant bodies including medical bodies, as appropriate.
- May be able to provide near real time updates on the pandemic and related socio-economic impacts.

WINDOW 2: WORKING PROTOTYPES/SOLUTIONS

There are a number of market ready solutions relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic which can be deployed but lack the necessary validation and tweaks to deliver them to market. In recognition of this, Window 2 seeks to provide innovators the support needed to capitalise on the opportunities presented by the COVID-19 challenges with the aim of getting their solutions to market during this time when the market recognises the usefulness of technological solutions. The expected time of solution to market is 2 (two) to four (4) weeks.

These solutions are at Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 5 to 8 (TRL 5 to TRL 8), prototype system to commercial system.

These may include working prototypes of products, processes, value added services, community social interventions, tools and gadgets that may be of high demand during and post the COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected that the solutions will include, but are not limited to, those addressing challenges in:

- Health Systems (Public Health Surveillance, contact tracing, Model test-kits and accreditation and management)
- Public Service Delivery (digital education, public service delivery systems)
- Transport (Payments, monitoring, & tracking)
- Logistics & Value Chains (Food, Fresh Produce, Medical supplies)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Submitted proposals will be ranked according to the following criteria:

- Clear articulation of proposed solution and approach
- Market Need
- Value Proposition (a clear path towards operationalising the product on-the-ground)
- Team Composition and Roles
- Customer Validation
- Clear Revenue Streams
- Alignment with Key Govt Objectives/National Needs i.e. COVID-19 pandemic
- Social Impact, (evidence that the solution addresses a specific problem/challenge or need)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Submit your proposal here:

General Terms:

Clarifications
Request for clarifications shall be sent to innovationfund@bih.co.bw. BIH will respond in writing to any request for clarification, provided that such requests are received five (5) days prior to the deadline for submission of proposals. Should the clarification result in changes to the contents of the Call for Proposals advert, BIH shall amend and issue an addendum.

Preparation Costs
The prospective solution provider shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of their proposal. BIF shall not be responsible or liable for the costs regardless of the outcome of the bidding process.

Cancellation
BIH reserves the right to cancel the Call for Proposal without providing any reasons.

Validity
The solutions and prototypes proposals costing must be valid for a period of 90 days.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Submissions in response to this call for proposals will be made through the provided portal and must include the following sections in the order listed:

a) Expression of Interest letter
b) Technical proposal containing the following content:
   - Concept note of the innovative solution(s);
   - Technical specifications;
   - Team experience;
   - Work Plan / Schedule for an implementation;
   - Mission team experience/profiles;
   - Implementation plan with budget and timeline;
   - Working prototype (pictures, narrative, video)
   - Any other relevant documentation as an additional value proposition.

AN INITIATIVE OF ADMINISTERED BY
The economic and financial impact of the pandemic, which is now unraveling, is likely to exert greater pressure on companies than in any previous crisis, casting deep dislocation in productive activity across the world. Volatility and price swings in major financial markets across the world with many expecting significant deviations from the 2010 highs and lows experienced mid 2008. This second wave of pandemics has certainly allowed companies to adapt and understand the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic. From a social standpoint, the outbreak of the pandemic will have put unprecedented stress on the world’s healthcare system and the entire human race. From a business perspective, the lockdowns and restrictions imposed by governments have led to a significant contraction in production and trade. Despite these challenges, companies have been able to respond by changing the way they operate, introducing new business models and expanding into new markets. One of the key ways companies have been able to survive the pandemic is by focusing on their core competencies and using technology to reach new customers. Businesses have been able to remain competitive by encouraging the adoption of digital technologies and adapting their products and services to meet the changing needs of consumers. For example, many companies have seen a significant increase in online sales, with many customers choosing to shop online during lockdowns.

The impact of the pandemic on the economy is likely to be severe. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that the global economy will contract by 3.1% in 2020, the deepest recession since World War II. The pandemic has hit the tourism, hospitality, and entertainment sectors the hardest, with many businesses forced to shut down temporarily or permanently. The outlook for a quick recovery is uncertain, with many economists warning that the economic consequences of the pandemic could last for many years.

From a business perspective, the pandemic has forced companies to adapt and innovate. Many companies have shifted their focus to online sales, with many customers choosing to shop online during lockdowns. This has led to a significant increase in online sales, with many customers choosing to shop online during lockdowns. The pandemic has also led to a significant increase in online sales, with many customers choosing to shop online during lockdowns. The pandemic has also led to a significant increase in the use of digital technologies, with many companies using digital tools to reach new customers and adapt to the changing needs of consumers.

The pandemic has also had a significant impact on the financial markets. The stock markets across the world have been volatile, with many companies facing significant losses. However, many companies have been able to adapt and innovate, with many companies using digital tools to reach new customers and adapt to the changing needs of consumers.

From a social perspective, the pandemic has forced companies to adapt and innovate. Many companies have shifted their focus to online sales, with many customers choosing to shop online during lockdowns. This has led to a significant increase in online sales, with many customers choosing to shop online during lockdowns. The pandemic has also led to a significant increase in the use of digital technologies, with many companies using digital tools to reach new customers and adapt to the changing needs of consumers.

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COVID19 WAGE SUBSIDY – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1 What nationality do the employees need to be?
Citizens of Botswana with valid o’mang.

Q2 How much should employers pay employees?
The purpose of the subsidy is to provide assistance to employees of eligible sectors. The Government cannot dictate to employers how much they must pay employees but encourages employers to do their best to meet employees' wages and salaries.

Q3 Can an employee apply on his own?
No. The facility is to be accessed by employers on behalf of their employees.

Q4 Is there a difference between wages and salary for purposes of the subsidy?
No. Wages and salaries are the same for purposes of the subsidy. The computation of subsidy however is based on the basic wage or salary of the employee.

Q5 How do we treat non-monetary benefits in computing subsidy?
Non-monetary benefits are not considered in determining 50% of the employee’s wages or salary.

Q6 If a business is owned by a non-citizen, can the business apply for the subsidy?
Yes. The criteria for application is that the business must be an eligible business with Botswana employees.

Q7 If a business owes BURS any taxes can they apply?
Yes. The subsidy applies even if the employer owes BURS any taxes. However, businesses are encouraged to continue meeting their tax obligations.

Q8 How does the subsidy work for domestic employees such as house help and farm help?
The subsidy does not apply for private employment. It only applies in respect of registered and eligible business enterprises.

Q9 Can an employee for whom taxes have never been deducted be eligible for the subsidy?
Yes. Some employees do not earn the minimum income to pay tax. However, they remain eligible to be paid under the wage subsidy.

Q10 Can I correct or amend a claim form once I have successfully uploaded it?
Yes. An amended claim form may be submitted. However, BURS may make enquiries to determine the reasons for the amendment.

Q11 Rent-a-chair hair salon – can we claim for the individuals renting chairs?
In the instance of rent-a-chair, the renters are not employees and cannot therefore be considered for the subsidy. However, if the renter is a business registered for tax and is considered to be an employee of that business they may be eligible.

Q12 Which identification numbers should non-citizens enter during registration?
Non-citizens should use the number of the passport they used to apply for a residence or work permit.

Q13 Common claim form issues:

a. Changing the structure of the form

Applicants should not change the structure of the Claim Form template. That is, do not add or remove column headers and do not rename column header labels.

b. Error message: Unsupported file format validation

The downloaded template is in the format of a csv file. After completing the template ensure that the file is saved in this same format i.e. csv (comma delimited) before attempting to upload.

c. Omang starting with zero:

To address this, follow the following steps:

Step 1: Highlight the O’Mang column in excel.

Step 2: Right click and choose Format Cells.

Step 3: In the list that appears, select text and click ok.

b. Error message: Sorry we could not process your request

Applicants are advised to download a new form and complete that.

e. Adding commas or “P” to monetary amounts

Applicants are advised not to include commas or “P” in completing monetary values.

P2000.00 is incorrect and should rather be entered as 2000.00.

30.000.00 is incorrect and should rather be entered as 30000.00

f. Which account number should be inserted in employee rows?

The completion of this cell is optional.

Q14 Some of my employees left my employment during the period between December 2019 and March 2020

These individuals are not the claimants’ employees and should not ordinarily be considered for a claim. See Question 26 for guidance on how to treat retrenched employees.

Q15 During registration, which account should I use, the employer or employee account number?
The account number to be used for registration is that of the employer. The payments from BURS will be paid to employers for onward distribution to employees. See question 19 below.

Q16 Employee left my employment before end of April 2020 but is currently unemployed. Can I claim for them as my former employee?
No. The employee is not in your employment and should therefore not be considered for an employers claim.

Q17 Employee left my employment before end of April 2020 and was due to commence employment at a new employer in April. Can the new employer claim for them?
The new employer may not claim for the new employee as the employee has no wage record with the new employer.

Q18 What if I don’t have bank accounts? Can the process be accessed in any other way?

Unfortunately the facility is only available online to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID19. BURS will not accept registration or claim forms in any other way other than online.

Q19 Who will be receiving payment from BURS, the employer or the employee?
The employer will receive the subsidy funds for onward distribution to employees.

Q20 What should be entered in the Subsidy Claimed column on the WAGE SUBSIDY CLAIM FORM?
The completion of this column is optional. BURS will compute the subsidy claim on the basis of the basic contractual salary or wage of the employee and notify the employer.

Q21 My business is not listed in the list of Business Sectors in the Registration form? What should I do?

The list of business sectors on the registration form is not exhaustive. Applicants are therefore requested to find a business sector that closely resembles their business. However, the business sectors in the Guidelines at Question 2 are not eligible.

Q22 If an employee is on maternity leave and are earning a reduced salary or wage which salary or wage can they use for claiming subsidy?

The salary or wage to be used is their basic contractual salary or wage.

Q23 Can we use an Orange Money, Mascom My Zaka, bemo mobile smega or similar payment instead of a bank account number during registration?

No. Payments are to be made into account numbers of barribs registered in Botswana. Payment facilities such as the ones mentioned above are not to be used for this purpose.

Q24 My employer is not keen to apply for the subsidy. How can we be helped?

Employers are encouraged to apply for the subsidy to supplement wages or salaries of employees if their ability to pay full wages has been compromised by COVID19. Employers are therefore advised to the Secretariat of the Public Finance Management (COVID-19 Pandemic (Corona Virus) Relief Fund) as advised in Question 12 to the Guidelines.

Q25 My employees don’t have bank accounts. How do I pay them?

The subsidy is paid to employees for distribution to employees. Employers are encouraged to find ways of ensuring employees are paid especially during this period of lockdown. Q26 What if I had retrenched employees before the subsidy was made available? Employers who had retrenched employees due to the fall in business as a result of COVID19 are advised to retain their employees and ensure they are paid the wage subsidy.
JOSEPH KGAMANYANE
editors@thepatriot.co.bw

storm with their newly released hit singles and clubs shut down most of the artists did distancing was recently imposed resulting with their passion against all odds.

Of recent a number of local musicians might have hit the entertainment industry hard but local musicians of the country's biggest ever interesting events and challenges he corporate transition.

The ladies at the forefront of the country's biggest ever corporate transition.

Lockdown vibes!

▶ Passion prevails over Covid-19

he ravaging covid-19 pandemic came at a time when Kast and Beat Slayer social distancing in most African countries allowed into Namibia as the country by that worldwide pandemic. The duo could not be a documentary project titled 'My Africa.' While we were stuck in Mokola we got stuck in Makunda a small village close to the Namibian border. This is where Kast says the single (PHOKO) was realised and recorded. "While we were stuck in Mokola we recorded four songs and PHOKO was one of the songs that we managed to complete. We did not have proper recording equipment so we had to improvise using a boom microphone and a small laptop. It was really a small thing but it end up coming out big," Kast told Patriot Lifestyle.

Despite all the hassle behind producing the single Kast believes that due to the ongoing lockdown he is however not able to promote the single the way he would have wanted to do. "In Botswana we make it a point to when you have released a single like me you are unable to go to a club or a festival to promote it," Kast decried.

JOSEPH KGAMANYANE

The Patriot on Sunday

April 26, 2020 |  www.thepatriot.co.bw

T he country's biggest ever corporate transition might have hit the entertainment industry hard but local musicians have not allowed the devastating situation to define them as they continue to push on with their passion against all odds.

When the prolonged extreme social distancing was recently imposed resulting with their passion against all odds. I'm proud to be able to create during lockdown and also thankful to be locked down with two insanely gifted Kings," he said.

About a week ago seasoned rapper, Kast of Ditsho Lebela fame also dropped a new single titled PHOKO in which he featured local producer, Beat Slayer. Kast narrated interesting events and challenges he encountered behind producing the single woes to the ongoing pandemic. Extreme social distancing in most African countries came at a time when Kast and Beat Slayer were about to tour SADC countries to shoot a documentary project titled 'My Africa.' The project was however disrupted by the world wide pandemic. The duo could not be allowed into Namibia as the country by that time recorded its first case. "They eventually got stuck in Mokola a small village close to the Namibian border. This is where Kast says the single (PHOKO) was realised and recorded.

"While we were stuck in Mokola we recorded four songs and PHOKO was one of the songs that we managed to complete. We did not have proper recording equipment so we had to improvise using a boom microphone and a small laptop. It was really a small thing but it end up coming out big," Kast told Patriot Lifestyle. Interestingly, Kast indicated that he also had to improvise even when shooting a promotional video for the single because he could not go out and shoot the video professionally as he would please. He indicated that the sleeve and the promotional videos of the single was shot and edited using his mobile phone. His son, Leapz-Mekhupi and wife, Veronica Mekhupi played a crucial role in all this. Leapz was the cameraman while Veronica made sure that lights and everything was on point.

Despite all the hassle behind producing the single Kast believes that due to the ongoing lockdown he is however not able to promote the single the way he would have wanted to do. "In Botswana we make it a point to when you have released a single like me you are unable to go to a club or a festival to promote it," Kast decried.

Try these activities to keep you busy when confined at home during COVID-19!

With the world practising self-isolation and social distancing amid the coronavirus pandemic, all individuals in the UK have been urged to work from home if they can. But staying in can be just as fun and productive as going out, with HELLO!'s tips to keep you busy at home during the COVID-19 lockdown. From learning new skills to embracing your inner DIY guru, there’s so much you can do.

1. Clear out your wardrobe

Delicately sorting out your clothes, detach your home, deciding items you haven’t worn for six months and co-ordinating clothes into sets so you can’t stare in the morning. This is a great opportunity to get inspired by new outfits or rediscover an old favourite.

2. Give yourself a manicure

Sometimes it’s the small things in life that make us feel better, with a fresh manicure being one of those. Take some time for yourself; push your cuticles down, file and shape nails, a lovely cream and don’t forget a shade that makes you smile from ear to ear.

3. Read a book

It’s time to read that book that’s been sitting on your shelf for the last few months. Get inspired by a best-selling novelist, indulge in a café-approved book or escape to a different world for a few hours. Hot drink and blanket advisable.

4. Write a letter

Remember how enjoyable it was to receive ‘snail’ mail? Do that with your friends and family – make their day.

Buy some nice paper and spread some love to a friend or family member.

5. Do evening drinks (from home)

More and more of us are turning to virtual shutter parties on video apps like Houseparty and Zoom so we can keep up with friends, have a laugh, a glass of wine or three, and make the best of the lockdown. Why not become the DIY Maitre and organise the ultimate pub quiz.

6. Lego

Dad’s been killing time in coronavirus lockdown by building Lego sculptures with his kids, and who can blame him? Lego is perfect for keeping your mind busy and you get the fun at the end of it! Winning. For kids (or grownups) at a loose and over the Easter holidays Lego has launched a LegoBuildTogether challenge with daily build alongs. 7. TV

Did you miss the Game of Thrones car or are you late to the Grey’s Anatomy party? News is the time to catch up on all that TV you’ve been missing recently, so get comfy and get ready to commit hours of your life to watching someone else’s drama. If you want to focus, Karaoke from days ago, be sure to sign up to hayu.

8. Watch Disney movies

How often do you get a chance to sit around and watch Disney movies at weekends? Disney+ has officially launched, so prepare to be obsessed!

9. Buy a dartboard

Can’t get to the pub? Bring the pub to you with a cool dartboard. This one is magnetic, so a lot safer if you have children.

10. Do a crossword/Sudoku

Looking for something a bit more challenging? Put your brains to the test and do a crossword or Sudoku puzzle and see how far you can get. There are lots of online crosswords or word puzzles which means you don’t have to leave the house to have a go.

11. Do a jigsaw puzzle for adults

Take your eyes off a screen for an afternoon, while you tackle a tricky 1000-piece jigsaw. Amazon has plenty to choose from, and puzzles for all ages. Have HELLO!’s picks for the best jigsaw puzzles for adults.

12. Build a sunny book

According to reports, quarantine erotica is on the rise - and more and more women are entering downtime reading a sexy book. Move over Fifty Shades of Grey, the new book causing a fuss is Sex During the Coronavirus Pandemic by WT Fielding. Protagonist Lucy tries to satisfy her sexual desires while performing social distancing, and the synopsis is: “They could lock down her country, but not her heart” and the front cover features a protective mask.

13. Make cheese from scratch

Calling all cheese lovers! This kit is the ultimate lockdown essential - equipped with a range of herbs and spices, 3 cheese moulds, and a glorious recipe book. There’s enough ingredients to make a grand total of 40 batches, and the kit has a shelf life of at least 12 months - so it’ll keep you going for ages.

14. Make a photo album/back up your pictures

Remember that great holiday you took in 2016 or when you swopped with dolphins? Save those memories like the rest are treated by taking the time to compile a photo album or scrapbook. Similarly, make a back-up of photos on your phone, to ensure you don’t lose them in years to come.

15. Plant some flowers

Introduce some welcome colour to your house or garden and plant some flowers. Now that the sun is shining, it’s the ideal time to get out in the garden and watch your flowers bloom.

16. Start a blog

Got you the modern-day Carrie Bradshaw or Bridget Jones? Or does your fashion talents rival that of Olivia Palermo and Erin Lampani? Use your down-time wisely and start a blog to share your thoughts on fashionable hobbies. WordPress is a favourite with most bloggers and it’s very simple to use. [www.hellomagazine.com]
London Marathon organisers in talks to clarify if race will count towards Olympic qualification

The London Marathon will see clarification from World Athletics over whether results for the re-scheduled race can go towards Olympic qualification.

The event was due to be held on Sunday but has been rearranged until October 4 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

World Athletics announced this month the qualification window for the Olympic Games was suspended until the end of December after the Tokyo Olympics were delayed until next year.

London Marathon race director Hugh Brasher said: “The time someone would, if they had got the qualifying time, wouldn’t count.

“We are in talks with World Athletics about that or whether a decision was made around track and field for marathon runners. It’s such a movable feast. These conversations are ongoing.

“The race was moved in March and pushed back on six months but Brasher adds the date may move again.

“We are looking at so many different scenarios and these scenarios have quadrupled in the last 48 hours,” he said.

“I was on a call with the other race directors around the world and collectively we stepped back. I checked one in we which a few people’s minds and we

What’s next for Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce?

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce’s son is present throughout the interview. Not in person, but in the form of a giant canvas on the wall behind her in her Kingston home.

Another clear sign she is not just Shelly-Ann the athlete, one of the greats, but Shelly, the mum.

“Some of my family have never seen me win a medal and I was so excited to have some sort of a season."

Fraser Pryce added: “Right now I try not to entertain that at all because it is a real reality. I’ve seen my plans just go ‘puff’ in front of me.

“The plan was definitely to do the double this year but with the Olympics being pushed back to 2021 it’s a different test now, something we have to test to see if it makes sense. ‘I won’t risk losing a gold medal in the 100m to get the 100m and the 200m, but the bigger the goal and the bigger the chase, I’m all in.’

“When asked if she had any concerns over the Olympics being further delayed, Fraser Pryce added: ‘Right now I try to entertain that at all because it is a real reality. I’ve just seen that everything happens in/history, even her illustrious compatriot Usain Bolt.

“Mane has been the total package’ - De Bruyne

Kieran De Bruyne says Sadio Mane has been the ‘total package’ for Liverpool this year, and would be his Premier League Player of the Season. The annual Professional Footballers’ Association (PFA) Awards would have been scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 26, but have instead been postponed along with the rest of the campaign.

Mane has registered 14 goals and nine assists in the Premier League so far this year, and has been one of Jurgen Klopp’s star performers throughout their title challenge. Asked on BT Sport who would be his pick for the individual award, De Bruyne said: “I would say Mane. ‘I think he has been the total package that year. It has been an amazing season, so I think he has to do the job.‘

De Bruyne himself was among the favourites for the award prior to the disruption of the coronavirus outbreak, with a combined 25 goals and assists in the Premier League.

The list of favourites was, of course, dominated by Liverpool players, with Klopp’s side still 25 points clear as the season hangs in the balance.

Mane’s relentless attacking performances meant he was many people’s favourite to win the award but captain Jordan Henderson and last year’s winner Virgil van Dijk were also in the running.

Despite their dominance of the domestic scene this season, Mane has been clear that their incredible title charge hasn’t been easy.

“Easy? Oh, I wish,” Mane told BBC Sport before the season was interrupted. “We know the Premier League is the best league in the world and every single game you have to give 100% if you want to win. ‘It’s what we always try and I think it’s working very well but we have to keep working hard to get what we want.‘

“Any target from the beginning was to win the league, so if we win it, it will be great for this club and for the fans.‘

Mane has seen his own personal output grow year-on-year since joining Liverpool from Southampton in 2015.

He scored 13 goals in all competitions in his first campaign, 20 in his second and 26 last season as his side went agonisingly close to a league and Champions League double.

The GOAT of female sprinting will wrap things up. I take it a year at a time, I know I will continue to create history. “I simply don’t care.

For a lot of my family and friends, it’s very expensive for them to travel to Tokyo but knowing the World Championships would be in Oregon, it is time we got a lot of them out of the country.

“Some of my family have never seen me compete internationally – so a way to whopping things up I take it a year at a time, and I don’t get to go too ahead of myself and I want to enjoy it, savor the moment, and continue to create history.”

History, it’s clear, dominates our chat. Doing the impossible, the unfathomable and proving people wrong.

Nothing sent a clearer message than her performance in Oregon, the new Nike spikes that helped her move, a fourth world title over 100m.

It was all in. I went to meets in 2018 and lost, I won’t risk losing a gold medal in the 100m to get the 100m and the 200m, but the bigger the goal and the bigger the chase, I’m all in.”

Victory in the 100m next summer would make her the first female to claim a trio of Olympic golds - and for now, that’s all hold. “I was devastated,” Fraser-Pryce told Sky Sports News, when asked about learning the Tokyo Games would be postponed until 2021.

“You were ‘no’ what do I do now? I’m 33, this is my final Olympic. I’ve been grateful and honoured to go to these already so I was like ‘okay’ my plan just went ‘puff’ in front of me.

“The plan was definitely to do the double this year but with the Olympics being pushed back to 2021 it’s a different test now, something we have to test to see if it makes sense. ‘I won’t risk losing a gold medal in the 100m to get the 100m and the 200m, but the bigger the goal and the bigger the chase, I’m all in.”

When asked if she had any concerns over the Olympics being further delayed, Fraser Pryce added: “Right now I try to entertain that at all because it is a real reality. I’ve seen my plans just go ‘puff’ in front of me.

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When asked if she had any concerns over the Olympics being further delayed, Fraser Pryce added: “Right now I try to entertain that at all because it is a real reality. I’m just focused on hopefully having some sort of a season.”

The World Athletics Championships in Oregon — which were due to take place in the summer of 2021 - have also been pushed back and will take place in 2022, an event which is set to be Fraser Pryce’s final outing on the track.

“Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce’s son is present throughout the interview. Not in person, but in the form of a giant canvas on the wall behind her in her Kingston home.

Another clear sign she is not just Shelly-Ann the athlete, one of the greats, but Shelly, the mum.

“At the end of the day, track and field is a time, and things will happen, but hanging up my hat and running him and just being a mother to a lifetime and it’s priceless,” she said.

“I slept with my son the night before the 100m final [in Doha] and I had no sleep whatsoever was like ‘are you sure you want to do this?’ and I’m ‘yeah why not.’”

(photoskypers.com)

Coronavirus: EFL warns ‘suitable testing’ must be in place before football returns

The English Football League (EFL) has warned that football cannot return with adequate testing arrangements in place for it to safely and that it cannot come in the expense of front-line workers.

Responding to news that the Premier League has stepped up planning for a return behind closed doors as early as June, the EFL said its own position remains unchanged as it looks to find a way to resume play as soon as possible.

In a statement, the EFL said: “Clearly before any return to football can take place, suitable testing arrangements for participants must be in place and this is core to our current planning, as ensuring there is absolutely no negative impact on the country’s front-line workers, the emergency services, logistics and club staff members.”

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Online chess boosted

Sport Associations tackle boardroom squabbles

**JOSEPH KGAMANYANE**
columnist

The local online chess initiative has received a shot in the arm after the Botswana Chess Federation (BCF) pledged to sponsor one of their tournaments.

While other sporting codes have been put on hold completely by the covid-19 pandemic, this is however not the case with chess as its players have alternatively fallen back on online games.

Though online chess has always been played before, the electronic game has since grown as a result of the covid-19 induced lockdown which hamstrung all physical sporting activities. Players compete against each other from the comfort of their homes using electronic gadgets. FIDE International Organiser and Administrator Vincent Mokola has tapped on the initiative and is organizing daily tournaments for local players.

He started the online chess tournaments weeks ago just after President lockdowns shut the country on a 28-days lockdown.

He says the online initiative is to facilitate for chess players to continue playing the game up until the covid-19 situation is contained.

"Chess is so addictive you can't stay away from it so after the lockdown announcement we thought of how we can continue playing the game, and after finding the best programme we started organizing online tournaments," he told The Patriot.

He started with organizing open tournament which he says is played almost everyday starting from 8 pm. The daily tournament has since become the most popular after gaining a lot of following. According to Mokola, the tournament has also attracted seasoned national players such as International Master (IM), Providence Gatlhobe, Fide Master (FM), Thabo Chibeka, Candidate Master (CM), Tsebog Liwagane, Candidate Master (CM), Abdul Kamara and former national team player, Thabo Mlotsha.

Masole thereafter went on to organize another tournament which was dubbed only for players under the age of 14 and it was inaugurated last week Saturday. The tournament attracted about 32 young stars. Woman Fide Master (WFM) Naledi Marape triumphed the tournament scooping position one while Candidate Master (CM) Thuto Mpho got position two and the third position was taken by Teboho Mabiba.

Masole also plans to host another tournament for local veteran chess players when he indicated how there is a great interest in the online initiative. "This coming weekend Masole will host Open and Women sections that will be sponsored by the local chess federation. BCF president, Mohokotsi/Thabane confirmed the P2500 prize money for the Lockdown Blitz Tournament noting that the fund is to encourage the chess community that have kept the game going despite extreme social distancing."

Masole says people are happy and excited about the games and some of them have since been approached to ask as to how they can assist in terms of partnering with us," he noted.

The International Arbiter believes that online chess might be the future noting that even the International Organising Body has announced that they will be hosting some of their lined up events online.

Just like any other sporting codes, chess has also been disrupted by the covid-19 outbreak. The 44th Chess Olympiad which was billed for summer this year in Moscow has since been postponed to next year. Local highest rated players, International Master (IM), Providence Gatlhobe and Woman International Master (WIM) Onkemetse Francis have already qualified for the Olympiad.

**MARTIN FANI**
columnist

It is hard to find a National Sport association’s executive committee pulling together as a team to achieve their mandates as the promise they made when voted into office because everyone now wants to push their own agenda taking advantage of the platform they were afforded by the affiliate. Non-compliance and governance in sport leadership amongst reason as to why Botswana sport is stagnant and not producing any positive outcomes from administrators to athletes on the field.

Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development through the National Sport governing body Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC), took a decision to suspend all sport activities and international travels last month in the wake of Corona Virus Pandemic which left almost all sportmen in the world idle. According to information gathered by The Patriot Sport, majority of the local sport associations are utilizing this period of "no action" to fix their relations amongst each other and reflect on their leadership as far as compliance and governance is concerned.

In an exclusive interview with The Patriot Sport, the recently resurrected Botswana Table Tennis Association (BTTA) President Malebogo Raditladi mentioned they are currently going through their constitution and documents that govern their association for compliance purposes.

"We have been out of action for almost a year due to administrative issues that halted the progress and growth of our sport because of certain leaders that occupied executive positions with wrong motives. We are in a recovery process and we are focusing improving our communication strategy, roll out plan of action development level and players transfer act so that when the situation normalizes, we are ready to implement. "This is the right time for planning and lining up all the mess that deteriorated the sport and obviously we don't have time to meet due to national lock down, but it doesn't bar us from thinking," he said.

On their part the struggling Botswana Netball Association (BONA) President Malebo Raditladi said they are hard at work preparing reports and retaining their documents to ensure that they are complaint as opposed to the non-compliant status that have seen their performance level drop drastically.

"We have been working as a team of various communication mediums and we are busy collecting documents and information from our affiliate teams, so we submit what is required by the registrar of association. This gives our members more time to re establish professionalism in managing which will be the face of the association in order to attract sponsors and other investors who can contribute towards the growth of the sport," Raditladi said.

National Sport Associations such as Botswana Basketball Association (BBA), Botswana Badminton Association (BBA), Botswana Karate Association (BKA) and Botswana Taekwondo Federation (BTF) are amongst National Sport Associations that have been hit by negligence within leaders that have seen their performance regrow over the years.