Race for Debswana top post

Chairman Smlder Tsegoane, who is also the Vice President, has always been believed that the backbenchers will easily accept a pay cut as donation to the COVID-19 relief fund in solidarity with cabinet. Sources indicated that most of the board members have found themselves in a tough and a hard place over proposals to voluntarily take a pay cut to fight against corona virus. While some said to showing readiness to contribute, a majority of MPs are said to have indicated that should their pay will come up with a heavy financial burden on them owing to reasons that they already have financial commitments. 

I haven’t received any official information with regards to us to donate voluntarily take salary cut to donate to COVID-19. But if someone brings that up it will cause an uproar within the party. As an MP I am also affected economically,” said one BDP MP who preferred anonymity.

Another MP who has a social vocal in Parliament and frequently differs with BDP cannot disclose, said he is against the idea of individual public servants like soldiers being expected to donate funds. He said he will not donate for hard earned salary, stating that government has mobilized funds for coronavirus hence it is unnecessary for any MP to be put under pressure to donate.

When reached for comment, BDP Chief Whip, Kabelo Kgalagadi who also forms part of the board, said he is not aware of any information regarding MPs expected to take pay cut. He said cabinet agreed on its own to voluntarily accept salary deductions adding that if there is any BDP who might want to contribute they can do it as an act of self sacrificing to pressure. “Donating one’s own salary to COVID-19 is half fund if it is a sensitive issue but if there are any plate from the party to ask for MPs to donate should only voluntarily but if on my side I haven’t got any information from the party so I still take it as rumour,” the Leshake-Lephepe MP said.  

Asked if they are forced to contribute how he will respond, Kgalagadi held that BDP MPs have authority to decide how they allocate their money. He said his colleagues that their benefits in form of both salary, housing and allowances be increased. The demands were rejected, and in instead MPs settled for a 10 per cent salary hike.

P512.00

COVID-19

Confidentiality critical

• Data censorship prevents stigmatisation
• Govt
• Tough balancing exercise; patients’ privacy needs protection - Rantao

D octor Tshiamo Rantao, President of the Law Society of Botswana, said confidentiality of patient information should be protected, even though it has a huge public interest. He said government should be careful about who it discloses information to and how much.

Dr Rantao elaborated that the disclosure of patient information can help government to balance its efforts of tracing the virus but it could also violate individual rights to privacy. “In my opinion I think government could only disclose patient’s information to the patient is the one who gives the consent that his or her personal information be disclosed to third parties,” he said.

Consequently, he posits that people should not be cautionary about disclosing positive patient because it should not cause huge public interest vs patient confidentiality. “We cannot still disclose the names of people with COVID-19 but failed to give geographic details of infected patients unlike it was doing earlier that caused anxiety and panic on the public,” he said.

Furthermore, Rantao said human rights violations has not been cause for concern during the State of Public Emergency (SOP), which is anticipated to be effective for a period of six months. “The fundamental rights protected as contained in the Constitution of the Republic of Botswana could be limited by the emergency measures of public health before SOP. Disclosure is a reasonable limitation to fight the pandemic as enshrined in section 5 of constitution,” he said.

He also noted added SOP and lockdown confidentiality of persons with COVID-19 but this could be compromised if authorities would be in conflict with the patient’s wishes or being due to potential litigation or salary issues.

“If an employee faces valute cut both parties should engage on SOP Covid-19 guidelines. SOP regulations are clear that businesses should cease operations instead of being forced to lay off employees in case the business is not doing well,” Rantao added says disputes are already available in SODEC.

Are you close to retirement and need more information on how you can best invest your pension funds?

Make the best use of your lockdown time, contact Liberty on tel: 318 0262 or email: livingannuity@libertygroup.co.bw to find out more about the Liberator Living Annuity.
U.S. contributes P56 million to COVID-19 Response

The U.S. government is contributing P56 million (P4.5 billion) to the Government of Botswana’s COVID-19 pandemic response. This total includes the P5.1 million in assistance announced by the U.S. government on April 16, which funded support to Botswana’s efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, treat those infected, and contribut to Botswana’s response efforts.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and the U.S. government have committed to assist Botswana with medical supplies, testing equipment, and training.

The U.S. government has also committed to assist Botswana by providing COVID-19 testing kits, personal protective equipment, and medical supplies.

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Debswana’s contributes BWP 24 million towards COVID-19 response initiatives

Debswana has contributed BWP 24 million towards COVID-19 response initiatives, including the establishment of an emergency response fund, purchase of medical supplies, and assistance to local communities.

Debswana’s contributions have been directed towards the following initiatives:

2. Purchase of medical supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE), medical equipment, and medical supplies.
3. Assistance to local communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Experts predict tough real estate sector

**Focus on Virtual Events**

The pandemic has led to a rise in virtual events, which has both advantages and disadvantages.

**Advantages**

1. **Flexibility:** Events can be accessed from anywhere, allowing for a wider audience.
2. **Cost:** Virtual events often require fewer resources and can be more cost-effective.
3. **Engagement:** Interaction can be enhanced through chat functions and polls.

**Disadvantages**

1. **Networking:** Physical events offer more opportunities for networking.
2. **Technical Issues:**Technical problems can affect the user experience.
3. **Inclusivity:** Not everyone may have access to the technology required.

**Conclusion**

Virtual events can be a valuable addition to the real estate industry, but they need to be carefully planned and executed to maximize their potential.
HRDC donates to COVID-19 Relief Fund

Botswana evacuating black rhinos amid poaching threat

Lack of tourism during the pandemic is evacuating an ongoing problem in Okavango Delta.

Botswana officials consider the rhino evacuation efforts a key clue rangers look for on their night patrols in the Delta. "Every time there's a blood moon or a full moon in Africa everyone involved in conservation—particularly conservation of rhinos—shivers," Joubert says. Wildlife officials therefore are trying to evacuate as many of the rare animals as possible in the coming days. "Rhinos Without Borders was asked to assist in the evacuation effort and is lending equipment to the operation, including tracks and veterinary supplies."

The rhinos' destination in Botswana remains confidential. "All I can say is we are taking the necessary measures to protect our rhinos," says Cyril Tatu, acting director of Botswana Department of Wildlife and Natural Parks, who declined to provide specific information about the evacuation. "I'm not in a position to talk about any details regarding ongoing operations."

"It's crucial to take this action now," the Jouberts emphasize. "Poaching incidents in Botswana, of both elephants and rhinos, have been increasing during the past couple of years."

The dramatic rhino horn trade in the region is controlled by international criminal syndicates, wildlife experts say. Last year, poachers slaughtered more than 2,300 rhinos throughout Botswana, and already this number has been surpassed during the first four months of 2020, Derek Joubert notes. Still, he considers Botswana numbers are still relatively low. "These numbers are passable, the Jouberts say. "When the rhinos are as passable, the Jouberts say." In a typical year, poachers may try to take advantage of the lockdown by poaching during the first four months of 2020. Dereck Jouberts emphasize. Poaching incidents in Botswana, of both elephants and rhinos, have been increasing during the past couple of years."

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The Patriot on Sunday | www.thepatriot.co.bw | May 03, 2020

The RAPULA OKAILE Interrogation

Embossed Capital Management Botswana (CEM) chief executive officer, Rapula Okale, is a man ‘living on borrowed time’ as the noose is tightening around him over the embezzlement of around P500 million siphoned from Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF), through a local private equity partnership – the Botswana Opportunities Partnership (BOP), in this SERIES OF PAPERS, The Patriot on Sunday reproduces transcripts verbatim of Okale’s interrogation before the Registrar & Master of the High Court where he was cornered by Advocate representing creditors in the liquidation process.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CMB Liquidation Interrogations proceedings have since been adjourned to July 2020 when the BPOPF Principal Officer is scheduled to take the stand. [MORNING SESSION: Friday 16 August 2019]

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Adv. Stais: Madam Master will you introduce me to the respondent?
Mr. Okaile: Thank you for introducing me.
Adv. Stais: Thank you. Well, as you know, you are now on the witness stand under oath, and before the registrar and master. You are required to state your names and addresses. Mr. Okaile: Yes, my name is Rapula Okale and I am the principal officer of the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF). As you would have known, I am also a director of the Botswana Opportunities Partnership (BOP). The other person…
Adv. Stais: That’s Mr. Mafuwa, the legal practitioner from the Botswana Opportunities Partnership (BOP).
Mr. Mafuwa: Thank you Madam Master.
Adv. Stais: Thank you for…
Mr. Okaile: No sir.
Adv. Stais: Mr. Okaile, you were chairman of the board when you were chairman of BPOPF. For instance, BPOPF is out. So, when the BPOPF Principal Officer is scheduled to take the stand. [MORNING SESSION: Friday 16 August 2019]

Adv. Stais: You served on the board of the BPOPF, is that correct?
Mr. Okaile: Yes
Adv. Stais: You were in fact CEO of the BPOPF, is that correct?
Mr. Okaile: Yes
Adv. Stais: You were not CEO of the BPOPF:
Mr. Okaile: I have never been
Adv. Stais: But chairman?
Mr. Okaile: Yes
Adv. Stais: So, you know the private equity world, and investment worlds pretty well.
Mr. Okaile: Oh, yes
Adv. Stais: No, these philandering and the nature of the investments and enterprises that are being directed at you, is it not a strange field to you is that correct?
Mr. Okaile: It shouldn’t be
Adv. Stais: Let’s be a bit more specific. It should or it not
Mr. Okaile: No, the type of enquiry that I am involved in right now is not a normal thing. I have never been involved in… of this sort. That is why I am saying shouldn’t be.
Adv. Stais: Yes, let’s not be obtuse. I am not talking about the enquiry process. I am talking about what is being inquired into. That is not a strange field for you is that correct?
Mr. Okaile: It should’t be
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2020 MAY DAY BOFEPUSU PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

The RAPIDRAIL KAYLE Interrogation

May 03, 2020 | www.thepatriot.co.bw | The Patriot on Sunday

Dear Mr. President,

Before I go further to address the workers of Botswana, I would like to remind all of us that...
**COVID-19 and Pregnancy**

C orona virus remains an issue referred to in COVID-19 news reports across the globe and has challenged many health systems with shortages of resources, and an outcry from all over. The infections with COVID-19 have shown detrimental effects on vulnerable people such as those with weak immune systems, amongst the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions.

With this in mind, there has been questions about how the virus affects pregnant women and their newborn babies. There are palpable fears on its effects on pregnant women globally and has challenged many health systems.

In the Caribbean and Africa, these women are at-risk due to the stress placed on the health systems. COVID-19 has caused so much stir globally and has challenged many health systems. As of today, there is still no cure for COVID-19, and many researchers are working tirelessly to find a solution. The symptoms on affected patients. The whole opposition collective is in denial of this vicious disease that is affecting the whole world.

The major question being asked is how this infection affects pregnant women, and it is still underway to determine the effects of COVID-19 infection on pregnancy though not much data is available. There are palpable fears on its effects on pregnant women, and this is supported by the fact that pregnant women have a higher risk of severe illness and death compared to non-pregnant women. Therefore, the prevention and management of conditions associated with COVID-19 is crucial to the health of pregnant women worldwide. There is a need to know how this virus affects pregnant women.

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Workers unite to end COVID-19

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Debswana Diamond Company – Group Projects would like to invite suitably qualiﬁed innovative, results oriented and self-driven candidates to apply for the positions listed and described below and join a professional team driven by service excellence, where the demands of the business are met by encouraging team work and addressing the needs of the individuals.

PROJECT PLANNER

Ref: DCC 000507
Tenable at Gaborone

Job Summary

• Performs Planning in a project environment for more than one project.
• Integrates Planning into project controls in a project environment for more than one project, i.e. integrate Planning with cost control, estimation, project administration, and document control.

Minimum Requirements

• Diploma in related ﬁeld or Artisanal Qualiﬁcation.
• Minimum of ﬁve (5) years’ experience in a Project Planning Environment.
• Diploma in Project Management will be an added advantage.
• Project Management Certiﬁcation in good standing (COSTING, Planning, Earned Value Management, Estimating, etc.) in related ﬁeld will be an added advantage.
• Degree in related ﬁeld will be an added advantage.

Pre appointment Training

• Advanced training in Microsoft Ofﬁce applications or equivalent (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, etc.).
• Advanced scheduling software (Microsoft Project, including Oracle Primavera P6 or Deltek OPP).

Key activities

• Performs the following in a project environment for more than one Cat 1/Cat 2 project or one Cat 3/Cat 4 project: Planning, setting-up, and managing Planning as part of the project control systems.
• Planning-related integration between project management work, support work, and technical/specialist work, including inter-technical/specialist work.
• Planning-related information, change request control that impacts on changes to schedule-baselined, and monitoring & measurement of the associated time-related impacts.
• Project Planning-related governance.
• Project Planning-related reporting.
• Planning-related contractual obligations (e.g., the impact and management of time).
• Ensures project-related planning-data between ﬁnancial, accounting, planning, and procurement systems; the review of errors arising from such transfers; and coordinating actions to rectify such errors.
• Monitors the effectiveness of Planning standards and processes, advises the Senior Specialist - Planning about necessary changes to ensure continuous improvement.
• Manages and controls allocated timing and operating within approved parameters.
• Implements knowledge management principles through application of tools and methodologies to continuously improve and sustain business performance.
• Initiates and implements creative and innovative ideas to continuously improve and sustain business performance.
• Establishes and maintains effective relationships with all key stakeholders and partners to ensure achievement of business objectives.
• Coordinates the safety, health and environmental program in area of responsibility.

Behavioral competencies

• Business Acumen
• Managing performance and holding people to account
• Planning, Coordinating and Execution
• Impact & Inﬂuence
• Service Orientation
• Change Leadership
• Innovation
• Concern for Safety, Health & Environment
• Develop Others
• Teamwork and Collaboration

Technical competencies

• Scope Management
• Project Control Management
• Data Integration
• Estimate Management
• Cost Control/Engineering
• Planning and Scheduling
• Project Risk Management
• Project Change Management
• Operational Readiness
• Document and Information Management
• Cost/price Loading (FEL)

Only candidates who meet the above requirements apply by visiting us on www.debswana.com/ CareerInformation/Pages/Job-Opportunities.aspx to register and apply.

Closing date: 16 May 2020

NB: Only short-listed candidates will be responded to.
BoB slashes bank rate to 4.25 %

ABC Holdings non-interest income 16% up

• Rakes in USD93.8 million non-interest revenue
• Reduces operating expenses by 5.4 %

BoB said correlation by both Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) point to huge drop in economic growth for Botswana in 2020.

BOK is optimistic... Bank of Botswana Governor Moyo Palako said the bank’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to cut the bank Rate by 50 basis points from 4.75 percent to 4.25 percent and the primary reserve requirement (PRR) from 5 percent to 2.5 percent.

The reduction of bank rate is a relief measure to ease cost of borrowing during COVID-19 scare.

Palako made the pronouncement when briefing the media through Skype on the decision of MPC on Thursday, saying COVID-19 has cardinal domestic and global economic activities.

The limitations of both domestic and globally economic activity, he said, resulted in production, supply chain, projection implementation and provision of goods and services being impeded.

Similarly, consumption and spending are disrupted hence domestic demand pressures and foreign pressures remain reduced. Consequently, overall risks to the inflation movement are skewed to the downside, taking into account weak domestic and global economic activity and likelihood decrease in international commodity prices, he said, emphasizing that the total economy will suffer consequences.

He added GDP was forecasted to grow by 4% in 2020 but in April 2020 World Economic Outlook, the IMF revised it downward saying it will fall by 4.5 percent this year, before recovering to 6.5 percent in 2021.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development also estimated that the economy will contract by 13.1 percent and later rebounded to a 3.9 percent growth in 2021.

Absa Bot come alive

• Set up Absa Bot 24/7 online virtual app
• App assists the clients amid COVID-19

Absa Bot is a virtual assistant innovation that is available online free of charge to offer answers to customers’ commonly asked questions about Absa, its products, services or any changes related to banking.

Bored Director: Valeta Mthimkhulu said in an interview with the service offers a wide range of services to customers ranging from checking account balance to detailed information on available products or services offered to clients for example.

Then, according to the customer, the customer should use WhatsApp number +267 6044498 as ‘Absa Bot’ on device and start interacting.

Ram donates P5m to COVID-19

Botswana’s largest and oldest financial institution, BC Holdings Limited, has donated P5 million to assist the country in its fight against COVID-19.

His company Choppies contributed P3.4 million and others that he is involved with – JB Sports and Far East Brands contributed P2.2 million.

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President Mokgweetsi Masisi (L) with Choppies CEO, Ram Ottapathu of our government, specially the health workers, police forces and the military forces,” he said.

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Operating Environment

The Group continues to engage in a number of ABC Holdings' key businesses. In the context of the current economic environment, the Group, as at 31 December 2019, continued to experience an economic climate which saw local economic growth remain weak and uncertain, with a number of macro-economic risks across Africa.

The Group acknowledges the challenges facing the continent's political and economic environment, which continues to be a key challenge for the continent's development. Despite this, despite these challenges, the Group remains committed to its strategies and initiatives to ensure sustainable and responsible growth.

The Group's strategy continues to focus on the following key initiatives:

- Expansion of retail banking operations to new markets,
- Development of new product offerings to meet customer needs,
- Enhancement of digital banking capabilities,
- Continued investment in technology and innovation,
- Expansion of insurance and investment products,
- Strengthening of relationships with key government and public institutions.

Despite the challenging operating environment, the Group continues to focus on delivering strong financial results, with a focus on sustainable growth and profitability.

Dividend of subsidiaries

The Group is conducting a process of evaluating the options of restructuring the ABC Holdings Limited ("ABC") and a reassessment of the strategic direction and dividend policy of the group. This process is focused on the divestment or rationalisation of certain businesses, and the Group will continue to assess the potential options for restructuring and the impact on the Group's financial performance.

The Group intends to conduct an internal review, following which the Group's Board of Directors will determine the most appropriate course of action.

Virtual Bernstein's recent acquisitions have been well received by the Group, with the Group continuing to explore further opportunities for growth and expansion.

Statistician General of the same year. Statistics Botswana (SB) indicates that the local electricity generation has been decreasing, with the country now importing electricity from neighboring countries. This trend is expected to continue in the future, with the country facing increasing energy costs.

The Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) 2018 South Africa CEO Bonang Mohale will be speaking at the event, which brings together several hundred tourism leaders from around the world to discuss sustainable tourism practices and challenges.

In recognition of his continued commitment to the Group, Mr. Mark Martijn Schneiders was recently awarded the "Career Elevation" award. This award recognizes his contributions to the Group, including his role in developing the ABCH Group Finance Function and his dedication to the Group's success.

Directorate All banking subsidiaries were adequately capitalised with healthy capital adequacy ratios as at 31 December 2019. The Group has maintained a strong capital base to support its growth ambitions and to meet regulatory requirements.

The Group has been careful in managing its capital, with a focus on maintaining a strong capital base to support its growth ambitions and to meet regulatory requirements. The Group has beenable to maintain a strong capital base, with a focus on maintaining a strong capital base to support its growth ambitions and to meet regulatory requirements.
The Group has applied the following transition options available under the modified retrospective approach:

- Lease liabilities: On transition, the lease liabilities were measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments, discounted using the Group's incremental borrowing rate. The lease payments include fixed payments (including in substance fixed payments) less any lease incentives receivable, variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, and amounts expected to be paid under residual guarantees.
- Right-of-use assets: Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any subsequent events that occurred prior to the effective date of adoption. Right-of-use assets include the amounts of lease liabilities recognized, right-of-use assets that are non-cash considered to be owned by the lessor at the end of the lease term, and the Group's proportion of assets classified as held for sale. Right-of-use assets that meet the definition of disposal group held for sale are measured at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell. Non-current assets classified as held for sale are measured at historical cost.
- Operating lease commitments: The Group disclosed operating lease commitments at 31 December 2018 for leases with an initial or remaining lease term of more than 12 months.

The results of discontinued operations are presented separately from the results of continuing operations. On the face of the financial statements, separate disclosure of discontinued operations is presented in line with IFRS 5. The net impact on retained earnings on 1 January 2019 was nil.

The Group classifies non-current assets and disposal groups held for sale if they are being held for sale or classified as held for sale for reasons other than through continuing operations. Non-current assets with disposal groups classified as held for sale are presented separately in the statement of financial position, in the line item “Non-current assets held for sale.”

Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets are not depreciated or amortized once classified as held for sale. Assets and liabilities included in disposal groups classified as held for sale are presented separately as current items in the statement of financial position. A disposal group qualifies as discontinued operation if it is a component of an entity that either has been disposed of, or is classified as held for sale.

The results of discontinued operations are presented separately from the results of continuing operations.

2. Ordinary and cumulative non-redeemable preference share capital

2.1. Ordinary share capital

The Group has not issued any ordinary shares since the reporting date.

The Group does not have any contractual arrangements that would require it to issue new ordinary shares in the future.

The ordinary share capital is presented as follows in the statement of financial position.

3. Capital in excess of par

The Group has not issued any capital in excess of par since the reporting date.

The Group does not have any contractual arrangements that would require it to issue new capital in excess of par in the future.

The capital in excess of par is presented as follows in the statement of financial position.

4. Non-controlling interests

The Group has not issued any non-controlling interests since the reporting date.

The Group does not have any contractual arrangements that would require it to issue new non-controlling interests in the future.

The non-controlling interests are presented as follows in the statement of financial position.
NOTES TO THE CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5. Loans and advances

Audited Audited
USD'000 31 Dec 2019 31 Dec 2018
Gross loans and advances 682 747 1 064 608
Less: Expected credit losses (40 635) (111 221)
Gross loans and advances (continued) 642 112 953 387

Analysis of expected credit losses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UGX'000</th>
<th>31 Dec 2019</th>
<th>31 Dec 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime credit-impaired (Stage 3)</td>
<td>1 275</td>
<td>5 115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime not credit impaired (Stage 2)</td>
<td>32 019</td>
<td>76 046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross loans and advances</td>
<td>642 112</td>
<td>953 387</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Disposal group classified as held for sale and discontinued operations

On 20 April 2019, the Group publicly announced that it had entered into a binding term sheet with Equity Group Holdings PLC (“EGH”) to dispose of its interests in the following subsidiaries: Allianz Banking Corporation (Namibia) Limited, Allianz Banking Corporation (South Africa) Limited, and African Banking Corporation Zambia Limited, in exchange for ordinary shares in EGH. As at 31 December 2019, the parties have yet to sign detailed transaction agreements. Though the agreement with EGH expired in January 2020, the Group is still actively engaged in negotiations with EGH and other potential buyers, with a view to completing the disposal of the subsidiaries within a year from the reporting date.

The major classes of assets and liabilities of subsidiaries on sale classified as held for sale as at 31 December 2019 are as follows:

USD'000  31 Dec 2019
Cash and short-term funds  201 666
Loans and advances  217 246
Investment securities  90 398
Other assets  85 525
Current tax assets  3 378
Property and equipment  32 672
Investment property  8 448
Deferred tax assets  13 685
Deposits from other customers  704 833
Deposits at banks  351 988
Borrowed funds  96 055
Net assets directly associated with disposal group  80 820

7. Financial guarantees, lease commitments and other off-balance sheet items

USD'000
Guarantees 19 750 36 068
Letters of credit, loan commitments and other 23 170 99 372
Leased property 40 024 44 986
Loan: Expected credit loss 1 006 1 049
Other loan losses 2 990 7 367
Maturity analysis:
Less than one year 28 506 73 199
Between one and five years 10 926 41 085
Over five years 21 508 111 509

8. Non-interest income

USD'000
Continuing operations Audited Audited Total Audited Audited Total Audited Audited Total
Interest and similar income using effective interest method:
Cash and short-term funds 7 794 2 562 10 356 4 046 10 092 14 138
Investment securities at amortised cost 9 650 12 892 22 542 11 062 13 147 24 294
Investment securities at FVTPL 2 503 4 904 7 407 5 851 11 258 16 516
Loan and advances 6 926 7 170 14 096 7 076 14 152 21 228
Interest and similar income using effective interest method:
Deposits 24 674 8 622 33 296 34 206 68 412
Borrowed funds at amortised cost 8 795 351 9 146 8 474 17 618
Financial liabilities at FVTPL 2 073 877 2 950 3 721 6 671
Net fee income on loans and advances 6 879 4 755 11 634 11 167 22 801
Interest and similar expense using effective interest method:
Lease liabilities 600 1 006 1 606 1 090 2 696
Other interest expense 3 313 1 766 5 079 2 912 7 984
Net interest income 24 449 24 846 29 295 29 288 58 583

9. Impairment credit/charge on financial assets

USD'000
Continuing operations Audited Audited Total Audited Audited Total Audited Audited Total
13 Months expected credit losses (stage 3): 210 1 635 3 541 2 671 6 477 3 707 10 184
Lifetime credit-impaired losses (stage 3): 519 3 293 3 812 430 498 928 1 930 1 930
Lifetime not credit impaired losses (stage 2): 59 3 097 3 656 208 208 416 416
Recoveries of bad debts previously written-off 1 051 1 825 2 876 2 581 2 404 4 985
Other interest expense 3 313 1 766 5 079 2 912 7 984
Net interest income 24 449 24 846 29 295 29 288 58 583

10. Non-interest income

USD'000
Continuing operations Audited Audited Total Audited Audited Total Audited Audited Total
Operations and financial results:
Staff costs 25 936 40 809 66 745 37 051 36 876 73 927
Depreciation 2 990 7 367 10 357 4 147 4 229 8 376
Other fee income 1 503 1 005 2 508 403 1 311 1 714
Financial assets held at FVTPL 558 - 558 666 - 666
Finance costs 42 736 47 708 90 444 48 239 46 065 94 304
Other income and expenses 1 051 1 825 2 876 2 581 2 404 4 985
Other fee income 1 503 1 005 2 508 403 1 311 1 714
Interest and similar expense using effective interest method:
Deposits 24 674 8 622 33 296 34 206 68 412
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Net interest income 24 449 24 846 29 295 29 288 58 583

www.bancabc.com
13. Fair values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial assets measured at fair value</th>
<th>Audited 31 Dec 2019</th>
<th>Audited 31 Dec 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Level 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial assets at FVTPL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listed equities</td>
<td>600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money market fund</td>
<td>3,925</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unlisted equities and debentures</td>
<td>19,485</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property units</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Financial assets at FVOCI              |         |           |         |         |         |           |         |       |
| Corporate bonds                        | -       |           | -       | -       | 12,193  | 12,193    | -       |       |
| Unlisted equities                      | -       |           | -       | 488     | -       | 488       | -       |       |
| Unlisted investment                    | -       |           | -       | 12,828  | -       | 12,828    | -       |       |

| Derivative financial assets            |         |           |         |         |         |           |         |       |
| Derivative financial liabilities      | -       |           | -       | -       | -       | -         | 5,444   | 5,444 |

14. Hyperinflation in Zimbabwe

On 11 October 2019, the Public Accountants and Auditors Board of Zimbabwe pronounced in their circular 01/19 that Zimbabwe met the conditions required to apply IAS 29: Financial Reporting in Hyper-inflationary Economies, therefore entities reporting in Zimbabwe are now required to apply the requirements of IAS 29 effective for financial periods ended on or after 31 July 2019.

In accordance with IAS 29, BancABC Zimbabwe’s financial statements have been stated in terms of the measuring unit current at the end of the reporting period, 31 December 2019. An inflation adjusting factor was applied to the historical figures to arrive at the inflation adjusted numbers.

IAS 29 also requires that the non-monetary assets and liabilities stated at historical cost on the statement of financial position be restated using the inflation adjusting factor. The gain or loss on the net monetary position which has been derived as the difference resulting from the restatement of non-monetary assets, owners’ equity and items in the statement of comprehensive income is recognised in the statement of profit or loss for the year ended 31 December 2019. The resulting loss on the net monetary position for BancABC Zimbabwe was USD11.1 million and has been included in the statement of profit or loss as part of operating expenses.
The Southern African Customs Union (Sacu) has said that trade flows were down to 1% in some countries and its member states were losing an estimated R7 billion a month of the customs revenues that they collected and shared due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The reforms of the oldest customs union in the world, which was expected to also renew its revenue sharing formula, were due for conclusion by December, but they too could be delayed.

SACU’s secretariat Paulina Elago who said that the IMF April 2020 outlook estimated that Sacu economies would decline by an estimated 7% in 2020.

She said that tourism, which contributed between 12% and 19% of GDP in these countries, had been hit hardest, along with retail, mining and the informal sector. Elago said that the continent must invest in health and ICT, and Sacu was now fast-tracking its automation of borders to minimise human contact and make the movement of goods quicker.

SACU reforms and review of revenue sharing

This compulsory formula has been a source of discontent with successive governments of South Africa, that have expressed concern that it penalises the country for being industrialised and export heavy, in favour of less industrialised fellow member countries.

This is also due to its strategic location in terms of supports, the level of development and state of the economy. Most of the imports coming into the customs area are from South Africa, including those destined for Botswana, eSwatini, Lesotho and Namibia. In essence, South Africa is the first and final point of entry for most imports and also serves as a distribution centre for the rest of the region.

In terms of the Sacu Agreement, customs and excise duties from imports of the total Sacu gross domestic product (GDP).

The development component is fixed at 15% of the total excise duties collected and it is inversely proportional to each country’s GDP per capita, so that it is weighted in favour of the less developed member states.

De Beers production for Q1 on target

De Beers said that production of rough diamonds across its mines in Botswana, Canada, South Africa and Namibia for the first quarter of this year was in line with expectations.

The impact of coronavirus was negligible, as lockdowns only came into effect at the end of March, during the final days of Q1.

An on-target total of 7.75 million carats were recovered, according to the miner’s latest production report, although it is total forecasting a 20% cut per diamond for 2020, because of the Indian lockdown, mine closures in South Africa and US shale demand.

De Beers reported that production in Botswana, which accounts for almost three-quarters of all De Beers diamonds, dropped free on per cent to 5.6 million carats.

The company blamed a seven per cent drop at the Orapa, due to a range of challenges related to commissioning of new plant infrastructure and maintenance. Production at Jwaneng fell four per cent from Q1 2019.

In Namibia it increased six per cent to 0.5 million carats, due to planned higher grade in the mines operations. In South Africa, production almost doubled - up 97 per cent to 0.8 million carats - as the final six from the open pit is mined prior to expanded underground activities.

Production in Canada decreased by 19 per cent to 0.8 million carats, primarily due to the planned closure of Victor.

ODC earns $18.7m from March auction

Botswana’s state-owned粗Diamond Company (ODC) said it sold 93 lots of 39674.96 carats of diamonds offered during March spot diamond auction. The company sold more than one million carats of rough diamonds in Botswana in Q1.

ODC said that it sold 93 lots of 18081.68 carats of diamonds in Botswana in Q1.

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NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL BILL 2020
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development invites public input and comments on the draft National Arts Council Bill 2020. We encourage Batswana, particularly artists, promoters, artists’ representatives, representatives of arts associations and all other stakeholders with interest in the development and promotion of the arts to shape this Bill for the future. The main aim of the Bill is to establish the National Arts Council of Botswana to promote and develop the Arts and Culture Sector.

ACCESS TO THE DRAFT BILL

The Draft National Arts Council Bill 2020 can be obtained by sending a request email to arts council@gov.bw. A copy of the Bill will be sent to you.

SUBMISSION

Members of the public are invited to submit written comments to:
• arts council@gov.bw
• The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development, P/Bag 00514, Gaborone.

CLOSING DATE

The closing date for receipt of comments is 30th May 2020 and comments received after this date will not be considered.
Stanbic eases trade between importers, Chinese markets

Stanbic Bank Botswana has launched its Africa China Agent Proposition (ACAP), which aims at assisting Botswana’s importers source and validate quality goods, safely and efficiently, from the most competitive suppliers in China. The initiative provides access to a network of Chinese suppliers and eases the cash flow of importers through expert financial support and empoweringimporters with insight and control of the entire importing and logistics processes.

China-Africa relations have been marked by vast advancements in trade and cultural exchanges over the past two decades. However, the recent outbreak of COVID-19 has affected global trade greatly. Due to Africa’s close trade partnerships with China, concerns have been raised about African countries’ ability to trade with China during and post COVID-19. ACAP is revolutionising the way in which African businesses import from China as one possible solution to the challenges faced by importers and businesses in Botswana wanting to trade with China. Building on Standard Bank Group’s long-standing expertise and heritage in Africa, Stanbic Bank will facilitate the following in sourcing goods with reputable Chinese importers, providing assistance to navigate the regulatory requirements, Assisting in overcoming language barriers through access to Mandarin-speaking agents, Sourcing and confirming goods of the acquired quality, Negotiating prices on behalf of clients, Providing export and import documentation, Providing access to Remittance currency to reduce multiple currency transactions. Stanbic Bank’s Head of Personal and Business Banking, Chilo Mankonde, said: “As Stanbic Bank Botswana, our clients remain at the centre of everything we do as we strive to seamlessly deliver holistic, relevant financial services that offer through relevant and value-adding channels. We are a partner from growth and we are working to support our clients in keeping their supply chains strong during this time of significant uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative provides the foundation of long-term, mutually beneficial and sustainable trade relationships, equipping local importers with the tools to navigate both the simple and complex aspects of doing business in China. This is a difficult period for everyone, and we believe businesses across Botswana need as much support as possible to ensure continued sustainability in operations. We want to help where we can and this is one demonstration of that.”

The offering – underpinned by a letter of credit – seeks to establish a long-term trading relationship with reliable suppliers. The project is currently underpinned by a letter of credit and seeks to ensure continued sustainability in operations. It is anticipated that the initiative will be expanded to include a broader range of suppliers and services in the future.

Managing Director of Stanbic Energy, Mabakhile Poulosophi, said: “The initiative is designed to support the Government’s call to support those in need as the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. “This pandemic has taught us many lessons, one amongst them being the unifying power of technology. As Botswana, we are all in this together and therefore from the perspective that we stand up to solidarity with other companies and Botswana, it is only right that we do everything to support industry in the construction of this virus,” said Motshabi Mokone, Managing Director of Absa Life Botswana. The donation is made up of two components, one of which is a donation towards the much needed Personal Protective Equipment as well as P50,000 towards other initiatives aimed at eradicating the novel COVID-19 pandemic. Absa Life Botswana is committed to supporting government’s initiatives that seek to minimize the impact of COVID-19. We have collaborated with our long-term strategic partners – Botswana Nurses Union, and to make a donation towards the much needed Personal Protective Equipment. We stand proud to be a partner of the communities that we serve. In this important matter of balancing the immediate and the long-term impact of the current crisis, we must remain committed in providing support to the communities we serve.”

Shumba Energy Ltd is an energy development company based in Botswana and listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange. Shumba Energy has in recent years progressed from an exploration company to a development company and sits on over 4.5 billion tonnes of thermal coal and a minor industry player, Shumba Energy’s mission is to satisfy the growing energy demand in the SADC region through various strategies. For Shumba “Powering the Future” means addressing chronic power shortages head-on and supplying energy to affected southern African countries in a sustainable and both cost-effective manner. Established in 2011, Shumba now owns a significant portion of advanced energy projects in Botswana and is uniquely positioned with its strategy to develop energy projects that are unaffected by the volatility of global coal prices. The Company’s main activities include project development and mining, coal trading, power generation and energy fuels. Shumba Energy has 3 assets in development stages.

Shelahla Project

The project is in the Palapye region and has 1.1 billion tonnes gross in-situ. The project is covered by 2 exploration licenses both of which are up to date and current with the department of mines. The project can provide power generation and coal exports up to date and current with the department of mines. The coal is of a quality suitable for use in both the coal imports and for power generation. As at 31 December 2019 the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and the mine feasibility study for the project were underway. At the beginning of the group owned 7.3% of the project. Further during the quarter the company submitted an application to the department of mines to extend the exploration license for an additional year.

Morange South Resources Project

The project is also based in the Palapye region, 5km from the railway siding and has 2.45 billion tonnes gross in-situ. The project is covered by 1 licence which is due for renewal at the end of this quarter.

Absa Life donates P1m to COVID-19 relief efforts

Absa Life Botswana is committed to supporting government’s initiatives that seek to minimize the impact of COVID-19. We have collaborated with our long-term strategic partners; Botswana Nurses Union to make a donation towards the much needed Personal Protective Equipment.

Managing Director of Absa Life Botswana, Mabakhile Poulosophi, said: “As Stanbic Bank Botswana, our clients remain at the centre of everything we do as we strive to seamlessly deliver holistic, relevant financial services that offer through relevant and value-adding channels. We are a partner from growth and we are working to support our clients in keeping their supply chains strong during this time of significant uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative provides the foundation of long-term, mutually beneficial and sustainable trade relationships, equipping local importers with the tools to navigate both the simple and complex aspects of doing business in China. This is a difficult period for everyone, and we believe businesses across Botswana need as much support as possible to ensure continued sustainability in operations. We want to help where we can and this is one demonstration of that.”

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Khato Civils is an equal opportunities employer. We are determined that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of sex, pregnancy or maternity, gender re-assignment, sexual orientation, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, age, race or disability.

VACANCIES

1. Land Surveyor

Job Summary
To measure and collect data on specific areas of land in order to meet project objectives.

Qualifications and Experience
B.Eng (B.Sc. - Civil / Mechanical Eng). – Registered with EFB as Professional Engineer or equivalent.
A proven track record in achieving first-class construction management in large infrastructure projects (Pipes, Roads and WTP).
Minimum of 5 - 10 years’ experience working in Construction Management, with at least 5 years’ experience in and on a site construction environment
A Valid Driver’s License

Reference: KCBT- PM

2. QC Site Officer

Job Summary
Responsible for maintaining of quality standards by approving incoming materials, in-process production, and finished products.

Qualifications and Experience
HND Diploma in Civil or Tech., B. Engr in Quality Management or similar advantage.
Registered with ERB as Professional Engineer or equivalent.
Minimum of 5 - 10 years’ experience in construction environment
A Valid Driver’s License

Reference: KCBT- QC

3. Human Resource Practitioner

Job Summary
To manage the day-to-day HR issues in relation to all HR activities such as recruitment, training and development, overseeing the management of site industrial relations, managing grievance procedures and conflict resolution, while ensuring that the company continues to meet its business and company’s objectives. The incumbent will be required to advise business and employees on all Labour related issues, highlighting risks to the business and employees whilst ensuring business objectives are ultimately achieved.

Qualifications and Experience
Minimum Diploma in Human Resources or related qualifications.
Minimum of 5 years’ Industrial Relations experience in a construction site environment
At least three years’ HR generalist experience.
Sound Knowledge of Labour Legislation and procedures.
Strong IR Background
A Valid Driver’s License

Reference: KCBT-HR/HR

4. Plant Maintenance Supervisor

Job Summary
The Workshop Supervisor Coordinates and directs the service department technicians for maximum efficiency and productivity.

Qualifications and Experience
Minimum HND Mechanical Engineering or equivalent and a valid Trade Test Certificate in the field of Earthmoving Equipment Mechanics.
A supervisory effectiveness of a first line certificate will be an added advantage.
5 years’ post apprenticeship experience on Earthmoving Equipment.
2 years’ experience as charge hand or Supervisor.
A valid driver’s license is essential

Reference: KCBT- PMS

5. Project Admin Officer

Job Summary
Responsible for coordinating of project activities. Manage schedules, arrange assignments and communicate progress to all team members.

Qualifications and Experience
Minimum National Diploma in Administration or related field.
5 years’ work experience as a Project Administrator.
Knowledge of project management software
Hands on experience with Workbooks, technical documentation and schematics
A Valid Driver’s License

Reference: KCBT- PAO

6. Project Manager

Job Summary
Responsible and accountable for the day to day running of construction operations on site

Qualifications and Experience
B.Eng (B.Sc. - Civil / Mechanical Eng. – Registered with EFB as Professional Engineer or equivalent.
A proven track record in achieving first-class construction management in large infrastructure projects (Pipes, Roads, and WTP).
Minimum of 5 - 10 years’ experience working in Construction Management, with at least 5 years’ experience in and on a site construction environment
A Valid Driver’s License

Reference: KCBT- PM

7. Quantity Surveyor

Job Summary
Responsibility from design costs to final figure
Purposeto minimise the costs of the project and enhance the profitability.
Ensuring that the project meets all legal and quality assurance requirements and regulations

Qualifications and Experience
Possession of recognized construction QS certificate.
A proven track record in infrastructural projects, Pipes lines, Reservoirs and WTP.
Minimum of 10 years’ experience with at least 5 years’ experience working on a site construction environment as a Site Quantity Surveyor.
A Valid Driver’s License

Reference: KCBT- QS

8. Resident Engineer Civil / Pipelines / Structural

Job Summary
Responsible for providing Resident Engineering functions and to service in a link between management and operational areas to ensure that work is performed according to the stipulated requirements.

Qualifications and Experience
BEng (Civil) or BEng (Civil), registered with ERB or equivalent as a Professional.
Minimum 10 years’ resident engineer function on steel and concrete pipelines and water supply pipelines far greater than 550 mm diameter pipelines.
Proficient with MS Office, MS Project and Drafting software
A Valid Driver’s License

Reference: KCBT- REP

9. SHE Site Officer

Job Summary
Coordinates health and safety systems. indentifies hazards and assesses risks to health and safety, put appropriate safety controls in place. provides advice on accident prevention and occupational health to management and employees.

Qualifications and Experience
OHS Diploma/Certificate or equivalent.
Certificate in occupational health and safety i.e. SAMTRAC, National SHE.
5 or more years relevant experience in a similar role
Registered with relevant professional body.
Knowledge of potentially hazardous materials or practises.
Proficient in MS Office.
Working knowledge of safety management systems i.e. OHSAS18001/MSMS
A Valid driver’s license

Reference: KCBT- SSQ

10. Site Agent Civils

Job Summary
Responsible for the management of the Civil site maintenance standards of health and safety, quality, environmental impact and cost control

Qualifications and Experience
B.Eng (B.Sc. - Civil / Water & Environment – Registered with EFB.
A proven track record in achieving first-class construction management in infrastructural projects (Pipes lines, Reservoir and WTP).
Minimum of 5 - 10 years’ experience working in Construction Management, with at least 5 years’ experience in and on a site construction environment
A Valid Driver’s License

Reference: KCBT- PP

11. Junior Land Surveyor

Job Summary
Measures and collects data on specific areas on land in order to meet project objectives.

Qualifications and Experience
B.Sc (Surveying). – Quantity Surveying.
Must be professionally registered with SAGC as a PLS (Professional Surveyor) or equivalent.
Minimum 10 years in engineering land surveying, directly related to construction
A Valid Driver’s License

Reference: KCBT- LS

12. Health and Safety Manager

Job Summary
To manage and coordinate the overall Health & Safety initiatives and systems at the company. Ensure and assure total compliance to maternity risk, litigation exposure and adverse publicity.

Qualifications and Experience
Should possess a four-year degree from an accredited post-secondary institution within construction engineering, occupational safety or a related field of study.
At least 7 years’ experience in the construction environment Staff management and relevant labour legislation.
Health & Safety legislation & implementation
Knowledge of Health & Safety & practices 

Reference: KCBT- HSM

13. Environmental Officer

Job Summary
To assist in the management of an environmental effectiveness assurance function in accordance with Legislative, Client, and Company Projects and other requirement.

Qualifications and Experience
Degree/National Diploma in Environmental Management or related field.
Registered with ERB as Professional
SHE legislation and implementation
Knowledge of Health & Safety & practices 

Reference: KCBT- EIO

14. Payroll Clerk

Job Summary
To perform general administrative related to Payroll and benefits, remuneration and employee conditions of employment.

Qualifications and Experience
Diploma in Payroll administration, book keeper
Training in Sage Pastel
3 to 5 years’ VVIP Premier Experience (Full Function)
Advanced Excel Expertise
Understanding of Basic Conditions of Employment
3 years experience in construction, engineering or a similar environment
The ability to process payroll input and reports and attend to employee queries

Reference: KCBT- PC

15. Foreman Civil / Structures/Pipes laying

Job Summary
To assume supervisory responsibility over workers, materials and plant in respect of a trade specific part of the project.

Qualifications and Experience
Minimum of 5 years experience in a construction, engineering/ built environment
A Valid driver’s license
Knowledge of construction processes and applicable trades

Reference: KCBT- SSO

16. Mechanic

Job Summary
To work as light and heavy equipment mechanic handling tools and repair equipment as per the site mechanical repair procedures.

Qualifications and Experience
Trade B HEAVY Plant Mechanics/Relevant Vocational Certificate
Basic Knowledge of maintaining equipment and troubleshooting of various kinds of equipment including light and heavy equipment.
5 years experience working as mechanic within a civil construction industry.
Excellent Communication skills
Ability to work under pressure.
A Valid Driver’s License

Reference: KCBT-MEC

17. S/S Mechanic Assistant

Job Summary
To perform various mechanical tasks assisting a Mechanic to repair, operate and refit vehicles.

Qualifications and Experience
Relevant Vocational Certificate or equivalent – 3 or 4 year experience in maintaining and servicing automobile equipment within a civil construction industry.
Ability to follow instructions as far as safe disposal of motor oil, tires and other vehicle fluids.
Compatibility to work as part of a team and ensure that they are free of clutter and broken materials.
Excellent Communication skills
Ability to work under pressure.
A Valid Driver’s License

Reference: KCBT-ASSMEC

18. Store Manager

Job Summary
To be responsible for receiving, storing and controlling stock items from suppliers and to issue to departments.

Qualifications and Experience
Knowledge of basic stock handling.
Understanding of Basic Conditions of Employment

Reference: KCBT- SSO

19. Recruitment

Job Summary
If you are looking for a short listed candidate within 4 weeks of the closing date, please consider your application as being unsuccessful.
The Recruiter may amend, delete or expire any jobs at any time without notice.

Khato Civils reserves the right not to proceed with the filling of an application.

An application will not in itself entitle the applicant to an interview.

Candidates are invited to submit a CV together with copies of certificates/drivers license (no original certificates).
Applications that are received without copies of required documentation will not be considered.

KCBT-5TH

Closing Date: 22 May 2020

Compliment applications can be e-mailed to recruitment@khatocivils.com or hand delivered at Khato Civils offices at Mmamashia along the A1 road after Mmamashia Engine

To apply, use the form below to submit your CV including copies of all required documentation.

News 17
The use of cloth face masks by the general public has increased rapidly following a recommendation by government for people to start wearing them when they are in public spaces to help curb the spread of coronavirus.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends wearing cloth face coverings to slow the spread of COVID-19 in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. CDC also advises for the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus but not know it from transmitting it to others. Local fashion and lifestyle retailer, Urban Soul Apparel this week encountered a high demand for the stylish masks after the announcement that they will donate a thousand of them to government to support in combat the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of customers have since shown interest to buy the attractive masks. “Our customers are already excited about the masks. Their response on social media is amazing as they are willing to buy as little as a single mask. Other customers have however told us that they would rather buy a more reasonable number which implies that they want to buy at least 5 masks,” Urban Soul Apparel Managing Director Molefi Nkwete told The Patriot Lifestyle.

Nkwete says they will definitely after donating to government trade some for their demanding customers. “We exist because of our customers so if they want a product we are left without an option but have to accede to their demands,” Nkwete promised.

Other than the stylish designs the urban soul logos seem to have also caught the eye of customers and Nkwete explains that they decided to brand the masks because they knew that it will help reach a wider market. “The idea is that whatever it is that we design we make sure that it always resonates with the customer,” he stressed.

Nkwete says knowing that the need to wear cloth masks will still continue post COVID-19 they then decided to come up with something that is sustainable and will be reusable after applying disinfection. Meanwhile the CDC has recommended for surgical masks or N-95 respirators to continue being reserved for health care workers and other medical first responders.
Bale reveals American dream

CâRTANE Bale has declared he would love to play in MLS - and crooned Luka Modric is a «lazy» polo.

The Real Madrid striker has two years left to run on his Santiago Bernabeu contract and the 30-year-old has indicated he will see out that deal.

Bale finds among the world’s best-paid players and his present salary, reported to be worth upwards of £13m annually, would be out of the reach of MLS teams.

But there may come a time when Bale can be persuaded to leave Europe for the United States, and the golf course he loves across the Atlantic could be a selling point.

Speaking on the Hat-Trick podcast, Bale said of MLS: “I really like the league. It’s grown so much over the years.”

“When we come over and play them now in pre-season, the games are difficult. The standards are getting a lot better. The clubs are improving, the facilities are improving, the stadiums are improving. “It’s a league that’s on the up and still rising. A lot more players want to come over to America now and play and I definitely be interested in it.”

“I love going to Los Angeles on holiday.”

Asked by the US-based podcast what he enjoyed doing in Los Angeles, Bale said: “I play a lot of golf.”

“I’ve played Pebble [Beach], a couple of times. I played Cypress Point which is a private members’ club which is next to Pebble Beach - that was probably the best course I’ve ever played so far.”

Bale faced heavy criticism in Spain after celebrating Wales’ European Championship qualification with a flag bearing the now-famous slogan of Wales’ Golf: Shidid! In that order.

He musts it saw “a bit of humour… a bit of fun”, but Bale’s love for golf is not something he hides from.

And when Madrid team-mate Modric proved hapless with a golf club, Bale had to laugh at the 2018 Ballon d’Or winner: Asked to identify his worst golfing team-mate, Bale said: “Luka Modric, 100 per cent.”

“We were staying in a hotel and there was nothing to do, and they had a golf course and a driving range there, so I said [to Modric], ‘Do you fancy coming down to the driving range to hit some balls?’

‘He’s got a club in his hand and he doesn’t know how to hold it really. He turns his back and he hits the floor, missed the ball.’

‘Looks he hit about one ball in 20 attempts and he just gave up.’

“The next day he came down and said, ‘My back is in absolute agony!’”

Bale
BFA adopts wait and see

- “We’re not under pressure to cancel leagues. We still have lots of options” - Letshwiti
- Some European leagues already annulled
- Other leagues hope to resume action in June

Botswana Football Association (BFA) President MacLean Letshwiti has indicated that the decision of BFA’s National Executive Committee (NEC) at a meeting held on March 08th which means that the league is behind schedule to a maximum of 2 months if everything goes according to plan. A number of professional leagues across the world have already cancelled their seasons including France’s league 1 and 2, Netherlands’ Eredivisie league while Belgians were declared infectious due to the suspension of Coronavirus. This have left other leagues in Europe and Africa with a dilemma and contemplation on what to do next. Most teams in Europe including Spain, England and Italy have returned to training with the hopes of resuming their domestic leagues next month but experts and doctors have advised otherwise stating that it is unsafe to return to football again this season rather wait for next season. In an interview with The Patriot Sport BFA President MacLean Letshwiti however said they are not under any pressure to cancel nor declare the league finished like other countries, but they will be vigilant on how the situation unfolds.

“First and foremost is to save lives and to compromise on lives of players and staff and therefore we depend on the advice of health authorities whether its safe to play or not. Close to the season we have choices, we can realign the league or postpone the league to a later date. The position of FIFA is that decision should only be made depending on the status of the pandemic and in our situation in Botswana we have choices that includes postponing the league up to November/December without affecting our season and these decisions are subject to time,” he said.

He also said all the operations are suspended due to the impact of Coronavirus. This have left other leagues in Europe and Africa with a dilemma and contemplation on what to do next.

Letshwiti added.

“Everything will be subject to the advice we will get from the health ministry because in all honesty the health of our people comes first,” he buttressed.

The BFA is now looking at the possibility of declaring the league finished by the end of October while others suggest that they should return to training with the hopes of resuming their domestic leagues next month but experts and doctors have advised otherwise stating that it is unsafe to return to football again this season rather wait for next season. The position of FIFA is that decision should only be made depending on the status of the pandemic and in Botswana they have choices that includes postponing the league up to November/December without affecting our season and these decisions are subject to time, he said.

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Dr. Martin Ramagasa

**BFA Spokesperson, Tumo Mpatane**

**JOSEPH KGAMANYANE**

**BFA General Assembly in limbo**

the Covid-19 pandemic has left some women footballers around the country stranded and without any means of survival. The affected players who normally depend on their football clubs for survival are said to be now encountering tough times as they cannot afford to buy even the basic needs such as food and toiletries as well as paying their rentals for accommodation.

TheBotswana Football Association (BFA) has assured football lovers around the country that they have not yet considered cancelling the 2019/20 league season due to the covid 19 pandemic, like their counterparts in Europe and the continent. BFA President MacLean Letshwiti has indicated that the decision of BFA’s National Executive Committee (NEC) at a meeting held on March 08th which means that the league is behind schedule to a maximum of 2 months if everything goes according to plan. A number of professional leagues across the world have already cancelled their seasons including France’s league 1 and 2, Netherlands’ Eredivisie league while Belgians were declared infectious due to the suspension of Coronavirus. This have left other leagues in Europe and Africa with a dilemma and contemplation on what to do next. Most teams in Europe including Spain, England and Italy have returned to training with the hopes of resuming their domestic leagues next month but experts and doctors have advised otherwise stating that it is unsafe to return to football again this season rather wait for next season. In an interview with The Patriot Sport BFA President MacLean Letshwiti however said they are not under any pressure to cancel nor declare the league finished like other countries, but they will be vigilant on how the situation unfolds.

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