BOTSWANA

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MANDATE

The mandate of BPS is to ensure the safety and security of the peoples of Botswana. The organisation is established by an act of parliament under the Botswana Police Act, Cap 21:01, section 6. The Act outlines the mandate of the BPS as follows,

"The Service shall be employed in and throughout Botswana to protect life and property, prevent and detect crime, repress internal disturbances, maintain security and public tranquillity, apprehend offenders, bring offenders to justice, duly enforce all written laws with which it is directly charged and generally maintain the peace".

'A law enforcement Agency of Repute'



- EXCELLENCE
- INTEGRITY
- TEAM WORK

'To provide a
Professional
Policing Service,
in partnership
with the
Community'

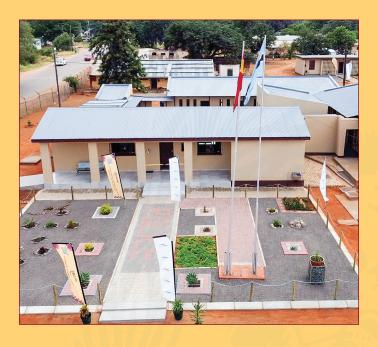


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Being A Police Officer Is A Calling—



Superintendent Selinah Omphile Assistant Public Relations Officer

hit by a spate of armed robberies especially the cashin-transit heists. This situation that has never been experienced in the history of the country saw an uproar of the nation calling for substantial police interventions. This, made armed robberies to automatically become a priority topic for the 2022 Senior Officers Annual Conference.

As the Police Management from all the four corners of Botswana descended into Gaborone for the 48th Session of the Senior Officers Annual Conference, they had a common concern in mind. How to effectively and efficiently protect the nation from incidents of armed robberies, Gender Based Violence(GBV) and other challenges amidst the remnants of the pandemic COVID-19.

The Conference which was suspended for the past two years due to COVID 19 dates back to 1972. This is a platform that offers the Police Commanders an opportunity to introspect and reflect on their performance of the previous year. Here, achievements and failures are unpacked with a view of improving and or coming up with appropriate strategies for the current year.

This year's Conference was a little peculiar from the past ones as it was faced with finding on-the-feet solutions to trending

crimes such as Gender Based Violence (GBV). Offences constituting GBV realised a hike in the previous year. All these challenges including those mentioned earlier tested the mighty arm of the Police hence, participants were forced to crack their brains on the kind of strategies to be crafted and the modus operandi to be effected in calming these situations. At the end of the five-day Conference, six resolutions were drawn, chief amongst them being; to adopt a zero tolerance stance to criminal incidents.

As subordinates, we awaited these resolutions with baited breath knowing that they would require each and every one of us to implement. It is in times like these that you see the literal meaning of the expression 'being a Police officer is a calling,' as we carry the burden of ensuring the safety and security of our nation in the face of adversity.

As Police officers we have honoured this calling with our individual and collective lives. We are a team and as a team we walk the road together. "Although I am but one man, I have thousands of brothers and sisters who are the same as me. They will lay down their lives for me, and I them. We stand watch together. The thin blue line protecting the prey from the predators, the good from the bad." A quote by Virginia H. Pearce.

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SENIOR OFFICERS CONFEREN

By INSP Oduetse Moadi

ollowing a two-year break that was necessitated by COVID-19 restrictions, the Botswana Police Service (BPS) Senior Officers Annual Conference finally made a comeback this year for its 48th Session.

The Conference is an annual gathering of Police Commanders from the rank of Senior Superintendent from all police establishments to review and align organisational strategies towards effective policing.

This year's Conference was held from the 14th to 18th February in Gaborone under the Theme "Policing Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic." Officiating at the event, The Minister of Defence, Justice and Security, Honourable Thomas Kagiso Mmusi started by requesting a moment of silence to honor police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty and those who succumbed to the COVID-19. He also appreciated the opportunity to interact with Police Commanders since he assumed office in 2019.

"It is my first time to address this particular gathering. This is mainly because the period following my appointment coincided with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. We should in this regard thank and praise God for according us a rare opportunity of hosting the conference this year, despite uncertainties and growing challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic."

The Minister said that the rapidly changing criminal environment and the associated and inherent dynamics resulting in increased sophistication and globalization of both crime and criminal syndicates, call for a knowledgeable, swift, agile and responsive Police Service that is capable of timely and decisively response to emerging crime



Honourable Thomas Kagiso Mmusi Minister of Defence, Justice and Security



Mr Keabetswe Makgophe **Commissioner of Police**

and other threats. "As we continue to tackle these contemporary crimes which include among others, cybercrime, money laundering, human trafficking, terrorism, we should pause periodically to reflect on our current performance, with an aim of enhancing our crime counter strategies."

Honourable Mmusi commended the police for persistent demonstration of their commitment and desire to reduce crime in the country. "The endurance, courage, resilience, determination, professionalism and above countless sacrifices you make on a daily basis are attributes that continue

CE SITS FOR THE 48th SESSION

to reassure and motivate us in our envisioned journey towards achieving Peace and Security for the Prosperity of all Batswana, as articulated in Vision 2036."

He urged Police Commanders to continue improving community policing programmes stating that the initiative has a positive impact in the prevention and detection of crime.

The Minister pointed out the importance of collaboration among government departments to address issues of national interest . "I will in this regard continue to promote a conducive working environment where departments support each other in order to collectively address issues of national interest, especially where capacity challenges exist."

He appreciated police efforts in addressing Gender Based Violence issues through the introduction of Child Friendly Service Centres in Gaborone and Francistown. He encouraged BPS to keep strengthening their efforts and ensure a full roll out of the Centres to other police divisions.

Honourable Mmusi called on Police Commanders to embrace all Government Transformation agendas including the Government Reset Agenda which prioritises among others, management of COVID-19, government reforms, digitalization, value chain development and mind-set change.

In his welcome remarks, The Commissioner of Police Mr Keabetswe Makgophe, said BPS like other organisations has been affected by COVID-19 as 54 police officers succumbed to COVID-19 complications.

He however commended the officers for the significant contribution they made in saving the nation from the pandemic. He said the organisation had to re-prioritise and divert some of their limited resources to the performance of frontline duties.

On crime, the Commissioner said in 2021 crime increased by 16.5% as compared to a decline of 22.8% realised in 2020. Breakings and robberies hiked by 18.6%, with the country seeing a spate of robberies targeting cash-intransit vehicles in which locals connived with foreigners to commit the crimes.

Mr Makgophe pointed out that a significant increase in the number of GBV was also observed in 2020. He said in a bid to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of dealing with offences resulting to GBV and child abuse, BPS established the Gender and Child Protection Branch. He said two Child Friendly Service Centres were opened in Gaborone and Francistown respectively and the organisation intends to open three more in Maun, Lobatse and Iwaneng before the end of the year.

The Commissioner also raised concern about road safety, stating that the police recorded 365 336 cases of road violation in 2021 as compared to 301 844 in 2020, with speeding, driving without driver's licence and careless driving being the main causes. A total of 413 lives were lost in road traffic accidents in 2021 as compared to 365 recorded in 2020.

Mr Makgophe assured the nation that the police will step up law enforcement and public education campaigns targeting all road users. He was optimistic that with the ongoing road infrastructural developments such as the automation of traffic lights in Gaborone, police officers will be relieved from performing traffic control duties to focus more on law enforcement.



Senior Officers in attendance at the Annual Conference



Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane **Deputy Commissioner-Support Services**

SACP Arthur Johnson, Director-Air Support (right), SACP Godfrey Phonchi, Director-Training (off right), Mr Steven Schaper, Deputy Programme Director (Off left) and Mr John Huey, Assistant Regional Security Officer attending the event

The Outgoing Programme Director of ILEA Bids BPS Farewell

By INSP Obusitse Puleng

otswana Police Service hosted a farewell dinner in honour of Mr Joseph Augeri who was the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), Gaborone Programme Director, marking the end of his five year contract. Mr Augeri has been with the Academy as Programme Director since 17th February 2017.

Phakalane Golf Estate in Gaborone this February, the Deputy Commissioner, Support Services, Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane, described Mr Augeri as a true representative of his country, the United States of America.

said that the Programme Director worked relentlessly to grow

> enforcement partnerships regionally globally, making it possible for countries to fight crime collectively.

> dedication and hard work also contributed the to existing bilateral relations between government of Botswana and United States America."

Speaking at the dinner held at Mr Ramakorwane said the Programme Director lived to his commitment and even COVID-19 pandemic could not deter his focus as the Academy managed to conduct 40 programmes virtually.

> This, he said provided an opportunity for more countries to participate and the training of more law enforcement agents. He said this marked a notable performance rate as training output increased gradually, with diversification and enhancement of the quality of training offered.

> He applauded him for his undivided attention in carrying out his duties during his stay at the Academy as the Programme Director and also wished him well in his future endeavours.

> For his part, Mr Augeri thanked the BPS and ILEA Gaborone for their support and trust in his leadership as the Programme Director. He said the Academy's success was the result of the



Deputy Commissioner, Support Services, Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane presenting a token of appreciation to outgoing Programme Director of ILEA, Mr Joseph Augeri





Mr Joseph Augeri
Outgoing Programme Director of ILEA

Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane, Deputy Commissioner-Support Services (right), Mr Busang Lesola, Deputy Commissioner-Crime Investigations (left), Mr Joseph Augeri, Outgoing Programme Director of ILEA (2nd right) and SACP Maseng Mathiba, Managing Director-ILEA (2nd left) posing for a photograph.

hard work exhibited by staff at ILEA and the support from the Botswana Police Service.

Mr Augeri said he prides himself with the fact that during his stay at ILEA, they managed to identify some training gaps such as communication. They then introduced Transcontinental Programming whereby countries were grouped according to their languages and common crime challenges. This ensured maximum understanding and development of relevant strategies by the concerned countries.

He observed that transcontinental training has yielded positive results with a substantial number of arrests of offenders and confiscations of products of illegal trades globally.

Giving a vote of thanks, the ILEA Managing Director, Senior Assistant Commissioner Maseng Mathiba, said he was very grateful to have worked with Mr Augeri, as he has been an inspiration to the Academy.

He said Mr Augeri has contributed immensely to the operations of ILEA, achieving in the process positive results that have been recognised by both BPS and US Embassy in Botswana.

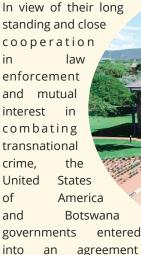
The event was attended by Deputy Commissioner Crime Investigations, Mr Busang Lesola, some BPS senior officials, Deputy Programme Director, Mr Steven Schaper and the Assistant Regional Security Officer, Mr John Huey from the American Embassy.

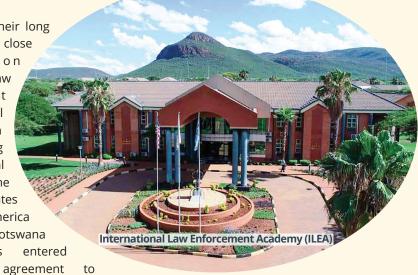
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The International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), Gaborone which is located 45 kilometers from Gaborone, with facilities adjacent to Botswana Police College at Otse, started its operations in 2001. It has since had five Programme Directors namely Messrs, Seymour A. Jones, Stanley Moran, James O. Smith, Francisco R. Berrios and Joseph Augeri.

establish an international law enforcement academy that would provide training for middle managers from law enforcement agencies of eligible countries.

Through strengthened international cooperation against crime, the ILEA's mission is to strengthen democratic governance through the rule of law; enhance functioning of free markets through improved legislation and law enforcement; and increase social, political and economic stability combating drugs trafficking and crime.





TRAFFIC COMMANDERS RETHINK **ROAD POLICING**

By CST Tshepang Boemo

year's Annual Traffic Commander's Conference was held in Francistown from the 9th to 10th February 2022. The two-day conference was held under the theme: Rethinking Road Policing for Safe and Secure Communities. The purpose of the Conference was to review existing road policing strategies with a view of setting new operational initiatives for the year 2022 and beyond.

When giving a keynote address, the Commissioner of Police, Mr Keabetswe Makgophe hailed Traffic Commanders for reviewing their strategic plans so as to match the current challenges and ensure maintenance of road safety.

He said periodical assessment of existing strategies is critical in attaining outstanding results. Mr Makgophe stated that Botswana Police Service (BPS) delivery processes have to be reviewed periodically to align them with government development perspectives such as the National Monitoring and Evaluation System.

"BPS is in the process of adopting an automated traffic control system to improve road policing and crime management in the country."

Adding that these developments will augment the Safer City project which is already bearing positive fruits in Gaborone and

Francistown.

Mr Makgophe said automation of traffic control will relieve the Police from the burden of manning traffic intersections thus making more officers available for patrols and accident prevention duties.



Commissioner of Police

"BPS is in the process of adopting an automated traffic control system to improve road policing and crime management in the country."

He further said BPS will explore other means of technology that can be deployed to facilitate advanced interception of offenders, like the automated number plate recognition systems, and those that can identify fraudulently acquired licenses. He pointed out that these technological developments will go a long way in improving police detection rates.

Speaking at the occassion, the Deputy Commissioner of Police Operations, Mr Solomon Mantswe called participants to ensure that there is more focus on accident hotspots to prevent reccurrence of road accidents.

Furthermore, he urged them to enforce all the written laws including those not related to road traffic.



'I encourage you to heighten roadside educational campaigns as the initiative has proven to be effective in reaching out to the public."



SACP Katlholo Mosimanegape **Director, Traffic**



Mr Mmoloki Baele **Botswana Integrated Transport Project Coordinator, Department of Road Safety**

Mr Mantswe acknowledged traffic officers' contribution in intercepting criminals and recovering property noting that the capability can be enhanced by working closely with other units of the BPS.

"Criminals travel to and from crime scenes and they carry evidence of crimes in the cars they occupy. This means effective traffic law enforcement can be a means to detecting crime, intercepting fleeing criminals and preventing crime."

concluded his remarks encouraging traffic officers to heighten roadside educational campaigns as the initiative has proven to be effective in For his part, Botswana Integrated Transport Project Coordinator, of the Department of Road Transport and Safety, Mr Mmoloki Baele informed participants of government decision to upgrade internal roads in the city of Gaborone and Francistown to facilitate free flow of traffic. He noted that there will also be introduction of speed and red light detection system which will help curb road traffic violations.

He said the system uses a laser method that will be able to capture a speeding motor vehicle and those going through red lights. Mr Baele also acknowledged that the government is considering

and cycling ways among others, in order to reduce traffic congestions.

Speaking at the event, the Director of Traffic, Senior Assistant Commissioner, Katlholo Mosimanegape commanders to intensify operations to deter road violations. He said highway patrols and sporadic road blocks should be conducted regularly in order to ensure compliance with the Road Traffic Act.

The Director also encouraged participants to collaborate with other stakeholders to reduce road accidents.



THE EVOLUTION OF **BOTSWANA POLICE COLLEGE-KANYE**

By CST Olorato Gadibolae

bout 5km east of Kanye village, along the A2 Highway, at the foot of Gamokongwana hills, in a pristine area is Botswana Police College, Kanye, an extension of the main Botswana Police College situated in Otse.

From a distance, one could see swooping birds from the hills down to the building tops, warthogs rumbling for leftovers and squirrels on a twofeet pose. A captivating reception to the College.

Upon entering the premises, it is evident that the place was transformed into a diversified Police training institution. One's heart could be melted by songs that define the mood associated with training in a disciplinary facility, tyres squealing and truck horns.

Welcome to the College, the home for In-Service and Special Constables cadre training. This is how the history behind the Institution unfolded. The Police Magazine team took an expedition to Kanye to meet Mr Bill Tomlinson, the first owner of the building where the College is housed.

On arrival at his homestead, situated on a hill that awarded one a beautiful view of the College, Mr Tomlinson received the team with great hospitality. "Welcome to my residence, feel at home and follow me to the balcony."

He ushered us to the balcony and pointed down the hill, showing us a good view of the College. We stood there gazing down the hill at the quiet village like some magnificent matron watching over the eye-catching wonderful styled buildings beneath the peaks.

Mr Tomlinson took us through the journey of the birth of "The Centre." Born in 1957, in the United States of America.

He came to Botswana in 1981 through a programme called the Peace Corps. This programme promotes, amongst others; world peace and cordial relations by helping interested countries to close their skills' gaps through Peace Corps.

Holding a Degree in Mechanical Engineering, his qualifications came in handy as he was selected to lecture Mechanics at Kanye Brigade from 1981 to 1985. Mr Tomlinson decided not to return to his home country after realising a business opportunity in Botswana.

"It was at the time when the government of Botswana was building many schools around the country. More teachers were coming to Botswana through the Peace Corps programme to teach in these schools."

He added that this resulted in the initial training facility for the Peace Corps in Molepolole being overwhelmed by the number of volunteers. In the year 1991, Mr Tomlinson came up with the idea of establishing "The Centre." The notion of The Centre was to serve as a training facility for Peace Corps volunteers. He then acquired the land where the College stand today through the village authorities.

"In June 1993, "The Centre" opened for business. Its original name was Thamatlhogo Training and Conference Centre, named after the ward where it is located. The community then shortened its name to "The Centre," he said it effortlessly as if it happened yesterday.

64-year-old The further told the Police Magazine that there were 26 rooms in the hostels and eight that were designed as hotel rooms.

Mr Tomlinson said that the year 1994 saw the Centre facing challenges as their initial customers (Peace Corps) moved to South Africa. Their plans of making money collapsed as the business did not do well.

He revealed that in the year 2000, the Ministry of Local Government, Lands and Housing offered to purchase the

"Finally, in May 2001, I sold The Centre. It became the property of the Ministry to be used as a training institution for the then Botswana Local Police Force under the Department of Tribal Administration."

When asked how he felt about the selling of the place, he took a deep breath, and his facial expression changed to somberness. "It was a sad my life, but I took time in



SACP Godfrey Phonchi **Director of Training**



Mr Bill Tomlinson The Initial owner of The Centre

fact that the Centre will serve its original purpose, which was training."

On the other hand, illustrating the College's transition from the Centre to the then Botswana Local Police Force College and currently Botswana Police College Kanye, the Director of Training, Senior Assistant Commissioner, Godfrey Phonchi, said that after purchasing the Centre, Botswana Local Police Force moved from their initial training Centre (Ramatea) in Kanye to the new facility.

Mr Phonchi further said the Centre became the training hub for Botswana Local Police Force recruit constables.

The Director also explained that when the government decided to merge Botswana Police Service and the Botswana Local Police Force in 2009, the ownership of the facility was transferred to the former and was referred to as Botswana Police College, Kanye.

He said currently the College is mandated with development courses for the serving personnel and Special Constables cadre.

Furthermore, the Director said that he was the first Senior Training Officer at the College immediately after the merger in 2009, holding the rank of Senior Superintendent. He also indicated that back then, the College's focus was mainly on driving courses. Mr Phonchi also stated that Training Instructors from Local Police were then absorbed by the Police College.

Kanye Campus offers practical courses for junior officers such as Basic Driving, PrDP" P" (Buses), PrDP "G" (Trucks), Motorcycle Riding and Defensive Driving.

The College also offers training for junior officers in Policing Skills, Supervisory Stock Theft Investigators Course, Skills in handling Gender-Based Violence cases, workshops for Post Commanders, Special Constable Development courses, Community Policing and Customer Care. It also hosts workshops and seminars on different issues of societal concern like Gender Based Violence, COVID-19 amongst others.

When responding to the question on the location of the College, the Director indicated that the site is in a serene area which is suitable for training concentration levels usually high.

Mr Phonchi said another advantage is that there are off-roads which are appropriate for driving lessons and motorcycle riding.

"There are two Police Stations in the area, Sejelo and Kanye which provide operational assistance to Special Constables when undertaking their practicals." Mr Phonchi stated that the College could accommodate 145 officers, in 13 units and three hostels Block A, Block B and Block C. He also said that the College has classrooms, a cafeteria, a hall, parade grounds as some of the infrastructure within the premises.

"I am happy that after I took over as a Senior Training Officer, the College was extended from 33 hectares to 79.5 hectares." He further said the original area was small and only covered classrooms and rooms, but it has since been expanded to include the residential area and parade grounds.

Mr Phonchi also mentioned that other developments are the installation of solar lights to improve luminance in and around the College.

For his part, Senior Superintendent German Mothaelwa, who is the current Senior Training Officer, said his envisioned plan is for the Institution to be transformed into a higher class driver training institution.



Senior Training Officer

By INSP Obusitse Puleng

ne refurbished Palapye Central Police Station recently re-opened doors for public service after sevenvears closure.

When officiating at the handing over of the project, Minister of Defence, Justice and Security, Honourable Thomas Kagiso Mmusi applauded the Mine for the successful refurbishment of the Police Station, saying it was a clear indication of the support and role that the private sector plays in the national development. He urged them to continue with the good spirit.

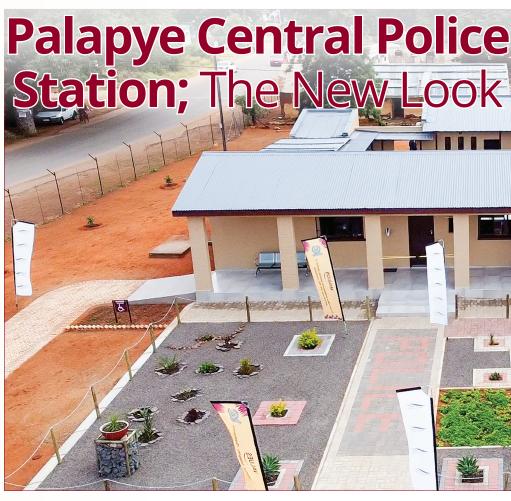
"This indeed was a positive achievement for advancing Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives, as the partnership was more important in the face of the scarce resources."

Honourable Minister said government was always receptive of the business community coming on board and embracing partnership benefit in the development of Botswana.

He said achieving Vision 2036 is a national dream that requires the



Mr Matthews Bagopi **Morupule Coal Mine Business Development Manager**



participation and contribution of all stakeholders including public, private sector and individual citizens.

The Minister said Palapye Central policing area covers almost half of the village specifically wards situated on the southern part of Palapye/Morupule railway line, which includes Boikago, Madiba, Thomadithotse, Boseja, Lotsane and Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST). He said the coverage extends to some villages in the Tswapong area such as Lecheng, Malaka and Goo-Tau.

"It is my sincere believe and hope that the full opening of the Police Station will go a long way in bringing policing services closer to the communities in the catchment area."

He acknowledged the Police for ensuring the functionality of the station and furthermore appreciated the commitment exhibited by BPS in building strong partnerships geared towards the delivery of its mandate in the face of COVID-19 pandemic.

"Palapye is transitioning into one of the fastest growing villages in this country with its strategic location along the main North-South highway and the East-West adjacent crossroad sections. While we are all amendable to new development. the unfortunate side is the increase in criminal opportunities that come with economic developments; hence the importance of maintaining this facility to complement the new police station."

Giving the national crime overview, the Minister highlighted crimes that are of a national concern and called for strengthened partnerships that will ensure a decline of such crimes. The crimes include robbery, including cash in-transit heist, Gender Based Violence crime (rape, defilement, murder, threat to kill, serious assaults) cybercrime, human and drug trafficking.

In his remarks, Morupule Coal Mine Business Development Manager, Mr Matthews Bagopi said it was a great



honour for them as the Mine to be delivering "a symbol of collaboration, commitment and sense of belonging to the community".

"When Palapye Police came knocking at our doors, they knew that in us they have a partner who is able to assist in

Station. This in itself is dignifying to us all and cannot be taken lightly," said Mr Bagopi.

He said they felt honoured and empowered to do more and better as the project they undertook elevated the portfolio of the work that they have done as a Mine.

once an integral service provider to Palapye more so that it is located in a beneficial place to cater for a large population. He said the station needed to be restored to enable the police to continue serving the community.

"Derelict facilities do not serve their intendent purposes and it was incumbent on us that we move swiftly, regardless of the constraints we had at such a challenging time to prevent this."

The Business Development Manager said that for BPS to carry out its mandate, it requires not only adequate work force, but also a fit for purpose facility which will enable them to perform efficiently. He encouraged other companies in the area to give a helping hand and partner with BPS and other government entities to support them to achieve their intended goals.

When giving closing remarks, the area Member of Parliament, Honourable Onnetse Ramogapi said as the village leadership, they were thankful to Morupule Coal Mine's continued support in the development of their village.

He highlighted that crime such as stock theft, assaults and rape are high in the area and called the public to join hands with the police in the fight against these crimes.

The project which is one of the flagship





MINISTER OFFICIALLY OPENS RADISELE POLICE POST



Honourable Thomas Kagiso Mmusi Minister of Defence, Justice and Security



Kgosi Shathani Mmereki Radisele



Honourable Leepetswe Lesedi Member of Parliament, Serowe South



Mr Keabetswe Makgophe Commissioner of Police

By ASP Mompoloki Mophato

he newly constructed Radisele Police Post in the Central District was opened on the 4th March 2022. The police Post which comprises of a Community Service Centre, consultation room, three air conditioned offices, kitchenette, custody suite and ablutions was officially opened by the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security, Honourable Thomas Kagiso Mmusi.

Officiating at the event, the Minister said government has taken a decision to build Police Posts at strategic areas throughout the country.

He said this facility will bring a positive change of relieving the workload from Palapye Central Police Station under which it directly falls. The Minister said

there will generally be an improvement of service delivery and an overall reduction of crime in the area.

The Minister highlighted the fact that Botswana Police Service has vowed to fight crime in partnership with the community as indicated in its Mission Statement.

"It is against this backdrop that I urge the community of Radisele and surrounding areas to continue rallying behind the police and ensure that the new facility brings about the expected impact and results."

Honourable Mmusi enthused that his government is committed to ensuring adequate resourcing of the BPS for improved public safety and security,

which is a precursor for foreign direct investment, economic development and diversification drive which are key for national prosperity.





Honourable Thomas Kagiso Mmusi, Minister of Defence, Justice and Security (centre) cutting the ribbon to mark the official opening of Radisele Police Post. He is flanked by Bangwato Regent, Kgosi Sediegeng Kgamane (2nd left), Kgosi Shathani Mmereki of Radisele (3rd right), Honourable Leepetswe Lesedi, Member of Parliament for Serowe South (2nd left) and Mr Keabetswe Makgophe, Commissioner of Police (left)

For his part, the Commissioner of Botswana Police Service, Mr Keabetswe Makgophe said the Police Post which was built at a cost of over P860 000.00 is a welcome development and motivation for effective policing and therefore, urged the community of Radisele and surrounding villages to maximise its use by reporting all crimes affecting them in the area.

He also emphasised that the BPS will take advantage of the opening of the facility to tackle all crimes which are prevalent in the area including but not limited to, rape, possession of habit forming drugs, mainly dagga and assault related cases.

He said his organisation will strive to capacitate the police for efficiency and effectiveness of services rendered therein.

Earlier on, when giving his welcoming remarks, Kgosi Shathani Mmereki of Radisele thanked the BPS for having built a police post in his village and providing transport for the officers.

Giving a vote of thanks, the Member of Parliament for Serowe South, Honourable Leepetswe Lesedi called on the government to build more police posts in his constituency.

"It is against this backdrop that I urge the community of Radisele and surrounding areas to continue rallying behind the police and ensure that the new facility brings about the expected impact and results."



Policing The Driving Force of BOTSWANA'S ECONOMY

By ASP Selebatso Mooketsi

summer sunrise painted the clouds amber, bringing a radiance that percolated over the tall trees. The temperature clocked 20°c overpowering the generous breeze from the perennial Thamalakane river which snakes its way through the splendid village of Maun.

The village of all things grandeur attached to its name, sits in the northwestern part of Botswana. Some of its captivating wonders are wild animals ranging from rabbits to the jungle giants' elephants, an edible water lily called "tswii" and the famous Moremi Game Reserve which is within the Okavango Delta. All these accounts continue to attract people of the world and had from time immemorial made the village one of the best tourist destinations in Botswana.

Tourism

driving forces of Botswana's economy as well as various countries across the globe. In that connection, it is of utmost importance to build destination image by having a Police organisation that provides second to none policing service in order to lure more domestic and international tourists.

To find out what makes Maun the centre of attraction, the author walked briskly from one place of the village to another to garner insight and scribble how Botswana Police Service in partnership with stakeholders, soars in ensuring safety and security of the hub of tourism.

All set to go, Senior Superintendent Onious Madziba, the Officer Commanding No.5 District (Maun) clad in police uniform as is the case on a normal working day, ushered the author into his office. Mr Madziba is responsible for policing Maun and its

Okavango Delta (Makgobokgobo) and other tourist attractions.

He was excited to share the vastness of his policing area which stretches from Sehithwa in the west to Gweta in the east and further spread to Tsau in the north. The Officer Commanding spoke about the importance of policing a tourism hub as safety and security play a vital role to tourism.

"The District oversees one of the country's unique cultural and natural heritage sites which contribute significantly to high revenue generation. You can see the importance of delivering a desirable service because tourism speaks volumes in growing the economy.

If tourists can feel unsafe while in Botswana it can paint a bad image to our great Republic resulting to a decline in tourists' arrivals."

remains environs, the one of the gateway As every organisation is appraised based on quality customer service amongst others. the Officer Commanding was not hesitant to mention that he regularly holds meetings with officers under his command to remind them to he courteous,

presentable and to carry themselves in a manner that would promote Botswana to the international customers. He also said by so doing, it would mean an increase in tourists' arrivals which ultimately would cause the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to thrive.

"When the GDP thrives, the economy also flourishes and that alone says a lot to a Police organisation that has safety and security of tourism destinations at heart. We must be seen as a Police Service that safeguards the country's economic driving forces; tourism, beef and mining industries amongst others."

In the year 2011, Botswana Police Service found it fitting to establish Maun International Airport Police Station; one of the four stations that make up No.5 Police District. Its policing area stretches from the Airport to the Okavango Delta and it is responsible for ensuring safety of both domestic and international arrivals as well as departures from various tourism destinations. Over the years, the number of arrivals and departures kept on increasing, which called for the establishment of the Police Station.

"Tourists come here to see our beautiful land, as it is rich in wild animals like rhinos, lions, crocodiles and elephants, the list is endless. Some of the places that attract more tourists in the Delta are Moremi Game Reserve, Kandalengoti and Chiefs Islands which have many wildlife species. This is where they capture some incredible moments such as lions roaring a stone throw away, elephants strolling and zebras grazing. How would one not see the importance of protecting the natural resources of such an economic pillar?"

The tourism sector provides lot of opportunities like job creation and generation of revenue but on the flipside, it presents challenges such as criminals who poach these beauties of the jungle. "Safety and security is a prerequisite for an ideal destination image therefore, proper strategies

have been formulated to minimise the negative impact. We value the need for a visible Police and we also believe that partnership between law enforcement and the tourism industry is an essential element in quality tourism service." Nonetheless, collaborative partnership amongst stakeholders such as Botswana Defence Force (BDF), Department Wildlife and National Parks

S/Supt Onnious Madziba

Officer Commanding No. 5 District

(DWNP), Department of Tourism and Bogosi

is consummate in having the safest tourism hub. There are strategies in place like conducting regular patrols and visits to places of interest in the area. We also do regular checks of campsites in the Delta with BDF and DWNP.

"One other thing that the Police do is manning roadblocks where we advise motorists to drive safely because wild animals are roaming the roads. All these strategies help us converse with tourists on a one on one basis and assure them safety and security as inhabitants of Botswana."

Mr Madziba also spoke of how they are knowledgeable of the location. "We are an informed Police Service and our officers are well-versed with the area which makes it easier to help tourists when they need assistance."

The value of working together was cemented by Principal Tourism Officer in the Department of Tourism Maun, Mr Taelo Moncho who hailed the collaboration that exists amongst stakeholders. He stated that the meetings with stakeholders provide a forum for professional networking and information exchange.

Mr Moncho also mentioned that his Department conduct regular inspections in hotels, lodges, campsites just to mention a few. "We have realised that there are some people who operate illegally in the tourism industry and inspection helps us identify them and take action. In all our special operations, we involve stakeholders such as the Police so that charges are prepared accordingly for those who violate the law," Mr Moncho pointed out



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Kgosi Kealetile Moremi

Acting Paramount Chief of Batawana

The Principal Tourism Officer appealed to those who operate tourism businesses without a licence to refrain from doing so as the Department will take necessary steps. "Tourism is a highly profitable enterprise therefore; it must be handled with care to generate more revenue for the country."

Mr Moncho was thrilled to share how the Police are committed to preventing and reducing crime against tourists and the community at large. He said that even though there are incidents of crime, those that affect tourists are minimal to none at all.

His sentiments resonated well with the economic importance of Police Services to global tourism emphasised by the World Economic Forum in its 2009 Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report. The Report considered Safety and Security to be the pillar of tourism competitiveness, with reliability of Police Services, as a central anchor.

This author took an in-depth glance at how the Bogosi of Maun safeguard their locality as the Chiefs are agenda setters of their communities. One of the functions of Bogosi is to promote the socio-economic development and they have been involved in the development of their areas since pre-colonial eras.

In an interview, the Acting Paramount Chief of Batawana Kgosi Kealetile Moremi who was at the time accompanied by her uncle Kgosi Leretetse Mogalakwe (Headman of Records) underscored the cordial working relations they have with the Police in making Maun and its environs the best place for tourism. Kgosi Kealetile Moremi expressed appreciation to Crime Prevention Committees in the area saying they play a pivotal role in crime reduction.

"As leaders of the community, we shun crime as it has the potential of affecting the tourism industry. We have taken a stern decision to bring to book anyone who commits crime. Our tourism hub has to be the safest place for tourists therefore, calling on Bogosi to assist the Police in their endevour of fighting crime, " Kgosi Kealetile Moremi said.

She further shared that the intention is to make Maun a green town in no distant future which also says a lot about empowering host communities. Kgosi Kealetile Moremi added that empowering communities would create distinctiveness in the market place.

"We need to stand out from the rest by enhancing culture and creating income which can support and strengthen our tourism sector. All these are important elements of tourism, therefore, we need to work closely with other stakeholders.

In conclusion, Kgosi Mogalakwe stated that they address the community on the aftermath of indulging in criminal activities and how that can affect Maun as a centre for tourism.

A quote, "A traveller sees what he sees, a tourist sees what he has come to see," by England born, Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874-1936), a writer, philosopher and theologian connects well with the two tourists spotted by the author at Maun International Airport. Mr David Thomas and Mrs Jennifer Thomas still in their mid-70s were travelling in a Toyota double cab bakkie. They arrived in Botswana on 1st October 2021 from Scotland to see what Botswana is best known for in the tourism circles.

"We are here for six weeks to see the splendours of Botswana and the reception here at the Airport was excellent. The Police are courteous and we have nothing to complain about because we feel safe," Mr Thomas told the Police Magazine.

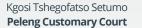


Mr Taelo Moncho
Principal Tourism Officer
Department of Tourism in Maun



COMMUNITY POLICING FORUMS KEY







Senior Superintendent Sarah Gabathuse
Officer Commanding No.4 District



Kgosi Motsholathebe Gaborone **Tlokweng**



Senior Superintendent Theriso Thatayotlhe
Officer Commanding No.3 District

By CST Morgan Mmereki

ommunity Policing forums remain vital in crime reduction, hence the need to revitalise them owing to their disruption by the COVID-19 pandemic. These platforms include; Neighbourhood Watch, Clusters, Farmers and Business Committees.

Botswana Police Service embarked on a campaign to resuscitate committees that were not active as a result of the regulations that were set to reduce chances of COVID-19 infection. Restrictions of movement and physical meetings made it impossible to map ways of moving forward with community policing forums.

In their quest to awaken Cluster Policing committees and also enhance existing partnerships between the Police and members of the public, Lobatse Police Station recently organised a workshop in Lobatse.

Speaking at the workshop, the Officer Commanding No. 4 District (Lobatse), Senior Superintendent Sarah Gabathuse called on the attendants to resurrect

their clusters and neighbourhood watch committees to fight crime in their area. "It is evident that with your help we can manage to reduce crime, hence the need to re-embark on our crime prevention activities."

The Officer Commanding pointed out that they have realised a rise in crime after lockdown a sotuation that called for buckling up. "We have to act promptly in fighting crime by devising new strategies to augment existing ones."

Senior Superintendent Gabathuse further expressed concern about some members of the community who harbour criminals adding that doing so perpetuates crime.

Speaking at the occasion, Kgosi Tshegofatso Setumo of Peleng Customary Court, commended cluster members for their efforts in curbing crime which still remains manageable in the area.

She said the society has an important

role to play in preventing crime as it happens within their localities and in the process affect them either as victims or witnesses.

Meanwhile, Tlokweng Police also held a similar workshop at Oasis Motel.

When giving a keynote address at the Tlokweng event, Kgosi Motsholathebe Gaborone standing for Kgosi Puso Gaborone the Paramount Chief of Batlokwa, pleaded with the participants to re-embark on crime prevention activities with vigour. 'Crime Prevention is not solely for the police, we should all take responsibility of preventing crime in our communities."

Kgosi Motsholathebe Gaborone also underscored that it was important for the community to interact, know each other and report suspicious characters to the Police.

For his part, the Officer Commanding No. 3 District Senior Superintendent Theriso Thatayotlhe, noted that COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted on the cluster

and neighbourhood watch committees. He therefore encouraged residents to intensify their patrols and recruit new members to help fight crime.

He appreciated the partnership that exists between the Police and residents of Tlokweng.





Women's Day 2022

onouring the women who make a difference to global policing

As Secretary General of INTERPOL, I would like to invite men and women from around the world to join our collective efforts in celebrating International Women's Day around the theme of "gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow".

For INTERPOL, International Women's Day is an opportunity to honour the dedicated women worldwide who serve and protect our communities, often in challenging or dangerous environments.

Gender equality in policing is not a female-only issue. Men are important partners in facilitating gender parity and can act as change agents in a maledominated policing culture.

Police forces need stronger female representation at all levels, but in particular, need more women in leadership positions.

As a mother and a wife, I actively participate in making the world a safer place, and I am proud of that. - Commissaire Divisionnaire Edwige Scholastique Gbippa, Head INTERPOL NCB Bangui, Central African Republic

INTERPOL's international women's day: insights from around the world

INTERPOL is proud to give voice on this page to some of the exceptional women who lead global law enforcement either in their role as Head of INTERPOL National Central Bureau, as a national police chief, or on INTERPOL's Executive Committee.

I encourage women in all the continents to join the police to fight crime in any form it takes. I am proud to be a police officer and I believe women have a major role to play when faced with new security challenges. Well done and thank you to all the women who work tirelessly for our security. - Commissaire principale - Head of NCB Innocentia Gertruide APOVO MONTEIRO

If you are determined to make your dream reality, no obstacle will be insurmountable. - María Alicia MALO SÁNCHEZ, Director of the International Cooperation Division Spanish National Police, SPAIN - INTERPOL Executive Committee member

As a minority, quality is the only guarantee of survival. Knowing that we are few in number, we are dedicated to improving. - Comisaria María Carmen Muñoz Gonzalez, Head INTERPOL NCB Madrid, Spain

Gender equality today sustainable tomorrow

Women in senior positions inspire others to follow and encourage young women contemplating their choice of career to consider joining the police. It is a profession like no other with varied, interesting and fast paced roles where women really make a difference.

Leadership by women in the National Police means active participation in decision making and operational planning for the benefit of the Nicaraguan public and their security. - Comisionada Mayor, Head of NCB, Martha Alicia MARTINEZ RAMOS, NICARAGUA - Head of NCB

Self-sacrifice, dynamism, rigour, these are the key words which must govern any action taken by a woman who is a winner, a leader. - Commissaire Divisionnaire Ami Flora Savane Fanny, Head INTERPOL NCB Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

Modern policing needs to reflect the communities it serves. We all have to make it our mission to make sure that police women can work free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination, in an environment where their voices are heard and understood.

Together, we can all #BreakTheBias.

Source: www.interpol.int

Remembering Our Departed Heroes

Revelation 14:13

And I heard a voice from heaven saying write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Blessed indeed, says the spirit, that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"



Sub Inspector Letsie Lerotholi

Died: 11.11.2021

Last Station: Tlokweng Police



Sergeant Letsosa Namane

Died: 13.12.2021

Last Station: Tonota Police



Constable Meno Modise

Died: 26.12.2021

Last Station: Jwaneng SSG



Sergeant Babogi Tsatsi

Died: 31.12.2021

Last Station: Gerald Estate Police



Sub Inspector Goitseone Mogale

Died: 07.01.2022

Last Station: Thamaga Police



Constable Millicent Tumeletso

Died: 04.02.2022

Last Station: Mochudi Police



Sub Inspector Pidio Mohutsiwa

Died: 14.02.2022

Last Station: Botshabelo Police



Sub Inspector Serehete Rampoka

Died: 19.02.2022

Last Station: Botshabelo Police



Sub Inspector Patrick Tukishi

Died: 23.02.2022

Last Station: Special Support Group



Sergeant Ruth Mapiti Chabata

Died: 07.03.2022

Last Station: Tatitown Police

May Their Souls Rest In Peace

