



BOTSWANA POLICE

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A re chencheng!

MANDATE

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

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

Vision

‘A law enforcement Agency of Repute’

- The BPS will be an upright organisation that upholds its mandate according to the dictates of the Country's Statues and all international policing conventions.

Mission

- The BPS exists for residents of Botswana and to provide to them a service that is consistent with International Policing Standards. The Mission understands that a Total Policing Service must be offered with the consent of the Customer and with the Customer.

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

- **Professional Policing:**
 - Expert Service that is consistent with international policing standards.
- **Partnership with the community:**
 - Policing by consent, for them by them

CORE VALUES



BOTHO

Courteous
Responsive
Respectful



EXCELLENCE

Accountable
Knowledgeable
Responsive
Accurate
Customer Focused



INTEGRITY

Ethical
Transparent
Confidential
Honest
Impartial



TEAMWORK

Espirit De Corps
Pull together
Collective Responsibility

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Assistant Superintendent Dimbo Peter
Assistant Public Relations Officer

The Year that was...

The Police Magazine team takes this opportunity to wish everyone a year filled with hope, laughter and faith to overcome hurdles that might appear on the way. Botswana Police Service (BPS) was able to maintain public safety and security because of your collective efforts. For that we say let us do more this time around, as we embark on the journey of ensuring public safety and security for the next 12 months. In line with the Government Reset Agenda, the Ministry of Defence and Security recently launched the Mind-set Change Roadmap campaign therefore, let us embrace the concept to envision the change we aspire to be.

It is also vital to reflect on significant milestones BPS has achieved the previous year. In the month of December 2023, the Minister of Defence & Security Honourable Thomas Kagiso Mmusi unveiled the first ever City Policing Unit whose mandate is to drive BPS urban policing strategies focusing mainly on violent and intrusive crimes in Gaborone and Francistown with the possibility of rolling it out to other major centres. The Minister also had the opportunity to unveil the Unit personnel who have been trained to deal with urban crime. Another project was the acquired 12 seater fixed wings aircraft worth over P130 Million to enhance airborne police operations in the country.

We acknowledge the establishment of City Policing Unit and the purchase of the aircraft which will no doubt, add value to existing crime prevention initiatives and improve on the manner we have been conducting our business.

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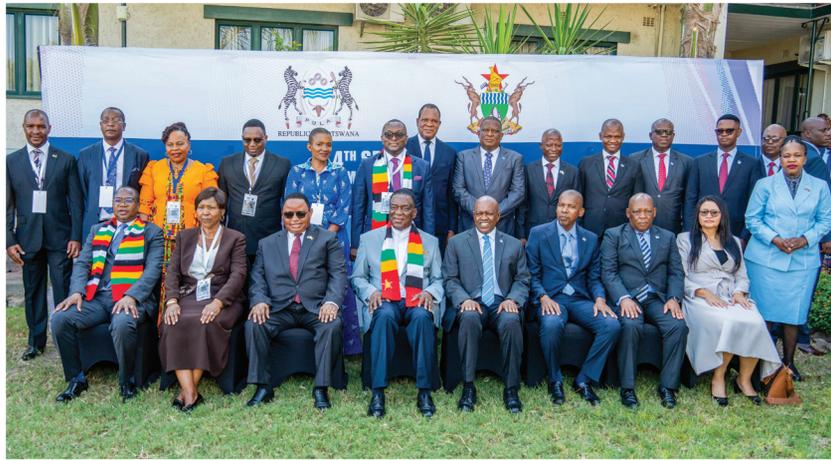
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Mogoditshane 0800 600 107
Molepolole 0800 600 131
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Palapye 0800 600 074
Ramotswa 0800 600 102
Sejelo 0800 600 138

Selibe Phikwe 0800 600 063
Serowe 0800 600 073
Tsabong 0800 600 121
Woodhall 0800 600 108

Botswana Police Service participates at the 4th Session of the Botswana-Zimbabwe Bi-National Commission Meeting held in Maun from the 5th-9th February 2024. The Commission reviewed bilateral relations of the two countries and the implementation of the Decisions of the previous Session.



BPS's Acquires New Fixed



Story by Selebatso Mooketsi

Photos by Insp Edwin O. Ramotho and
Cst Gofaone A. Kobe

Botswana Police Service (BPS) has acquired a new fixed wings aircraft from Absolute Aviation Holdings (Pty) Ltd in South Africa worth P130 Million. The aircraft landed at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport (SSKIA) on 19th December 2023 and joined the existing BPS' fleet of eight helicopters that are instrumental in the fight against crime in the country.

Appreciating the aircraft recently at SSKIA, His Excellency the President, Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi said the Government is committed to resourcing the BPS, hence the acquisition of the new aircraft. The President also stated that funds permitting, the BPS should

in future consider acquiring aircrafts with ample carrying capacity so that they are able to transport a sizeable number of operatives at a time. He was thankful that the new aircraft would enhance airborne policing in the country.

In his welcome remarks, the Minister of Defence and Security, Honourable Thomas Kagiso Mmusi thanked the Government of Botswana for allowing the BPS to acquire the aircraft. Mr Mmusi said the aircraft would enable the Police to execute their duties effectively and ensure a safer society. The Minister also mentioned that the new aircraft would improve police efficiency and aid in rapid response to incidents and operations in distant areas around the country.

In his remarks, the Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane apprised the President that the aircraft augments the current fleet of the BPS, used in aerial patrol, response to emergency calls and assisting officers on the ground. He assured the President that the BPS would continue to serve the nation and reach out to different parts of the country on time.

The Beechcraft King Air 360, which has a carrying capacity of 12 passengers and two pilots, was manufactured by Textron Aviation Company based in the United States of America. The new aircraft is beneficial because of its carrying capacity, long flying distance and agility.

Appreciating the aircraft recently at SSKIA, His Excellency the President, Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi said the Government is committed to resourcing the BPS, hence the acquisition of the new aircraft.

Wing Aircraft



His Excellency the President, Dr Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi appreciating the aircraft



His Excellency the President, Dr Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi (L) and Minister of Defence and Security Hon. Thomas K. Mmusi (R)



Absolute Aviation Managing Director, Mr Mike Clark handing over the aircraft keys to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations), Mr Solomon Mantswe at Lanseria International Airport in South Africa.



Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane (2nd R), Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations), Mr Solomon Mantswe (R), Director Air Support, Senior Assistant Commissioner Arthur Johnson (L) and Deputy Director Development and Finance, Assistant Commissioner of Police Odikilwe Majama



Dignitaries



CITY POLICING

Honourable Thomas Kagiso Mmusi, Minister of Defence and Security

Story by S/I Macdonald Kengaletswe
Photos by Cst Kagiso Ntwaagae

As it is common in most developing nations, Botswana's population is concentrated in urban areas. According to the 2022 census, the nation's two cities, Gaborone and Francistown, have the highest number of inhabitants at 246,325 and 103,417, respectively. Most of these are honest, hardworking people seeking better opportunities for themselves and their loved ones.

However, within this populace are a few with criminal tendencies. In recent times, Gaborone and surrounding areas have been experiencing a steady increase and more emboldened criminals. A series of robberies on businesses by organised criminals are some of the offences that have been dripping in at worrying levels. Some of these atrocious crimes became highly publicised, leading to widespread dread of crime among the City dwellers.

The situation was now becoming unbearable. Something had to be done. A solution was needed, and relying only on existing crime prevention measures was no longer an option. The Minister of Defence and Security, Honourable Thomas Kagiso Mmusi, stepped up to the challenge, and the City Police Unit (CPU) was born.

Honourable Mmusi officially launched the Unit recently in Gaborone, promising



City Policing Unit Operatives



Hon. Thomas Kagiso Mmusi (C) flanked by Permanent Secretary (MDS) Ms Pearl Ramokoka (2nd L), the Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane (2nd R), Botswana Defence Force Commander, Lieutenant General Placid Segokgo and Botswana Prisons Services, Deputy Commissioner Mr Anthony Mokento (Operations and Security).

CITY POLICING UNIT LAUNCH

the City inhabitants safer streets and improved response time to their reports.

“The main objectives of the Unit are to enhance visibility in the streets and greatly improve police response to emergency reports,” Honourable Mmusi stated. “It will also undertake

dedicated interventions in urban crimes like robberies, theft of motor vehicles, burglaries and others,” he added.

The Minister stated that the officers deployed in the Unit will be armed and equipped with specialised skills and resources that are relevant in dealing

with urban crime. He urged the City Police operatives to remain resolute in ensuring that the residents of the two Cities are safe from criminals.

The CPU is operating under Special Support Group (SSG) branch.



Dignitaries who attended the event



Motor vehicles to be used by the Unit



Minister of Defence and Security Honourable Thomas K. Mmusi



Acting Commissioner of Police Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane

BPS SPIRIT OF GIVING LIVES ON

Story by Kefilwe Bafana

Photos Cst Morgan Mmerekhi

Amid the gentle whispers of anticipation and the soft hum of conversation, scores of people gathered on that sun-kissed morning. The event of handing over a three-bedroom house that cost over P200 000.00 to a mother of eleven of Ramotlhabeng ward, Mmankgodi had transformed into a communal celebration, a testament to the extraordinary power of kindness and unity.

A moment of silence was observed to respect, reverence and acknowledge the life of Mr Gabanakgosi who passed on when the project was in progress. The pain of sorrow could be seen on the face of the wife and the family who were now receiving the house on behalf of Mr Gabanakgosi. One could pick and connect the feeling of loss from the family depicting that his presence was deeply missed.

As the sun's golden rays bathed the scene, it revealed the multitudes of individuals who had converged upon this hallowed ground and beautiful landscape, each one bearing a unique tale of compassion and hope. It was a mosaic of

humanity, a vivid reflection of the innate goodness that thrives within the hearts of people from all walks of life. In the midst of this gathering, there was a palpable sense of purpose, a shared belief that, in this humble act of charity, the bonds of community were being woven even tighter.

The Botswana Police Service, Headquarters personnel recently acted the parable of the sheep and goats a well-known story from the New Testament of the Bible, Matthew, chapter 25, verses 31-46. The story that often used to emphasise the importance of giving to the less privileged as a social responsibility and the moral imperative of helping those in need.

When giving his keynote address during the house handing over Minister of Defence and Security, also Member of Parliament for Gabane/Mmankgodi Constituency, Honourable Thomas Kagiso Mmusi said he was delighted that Botswana Police Service (BPS) has restored Ms Ditonki Gabanakgosi's dignity by building a house for her and her family. He said having a decent accommodation is considered a fundamental

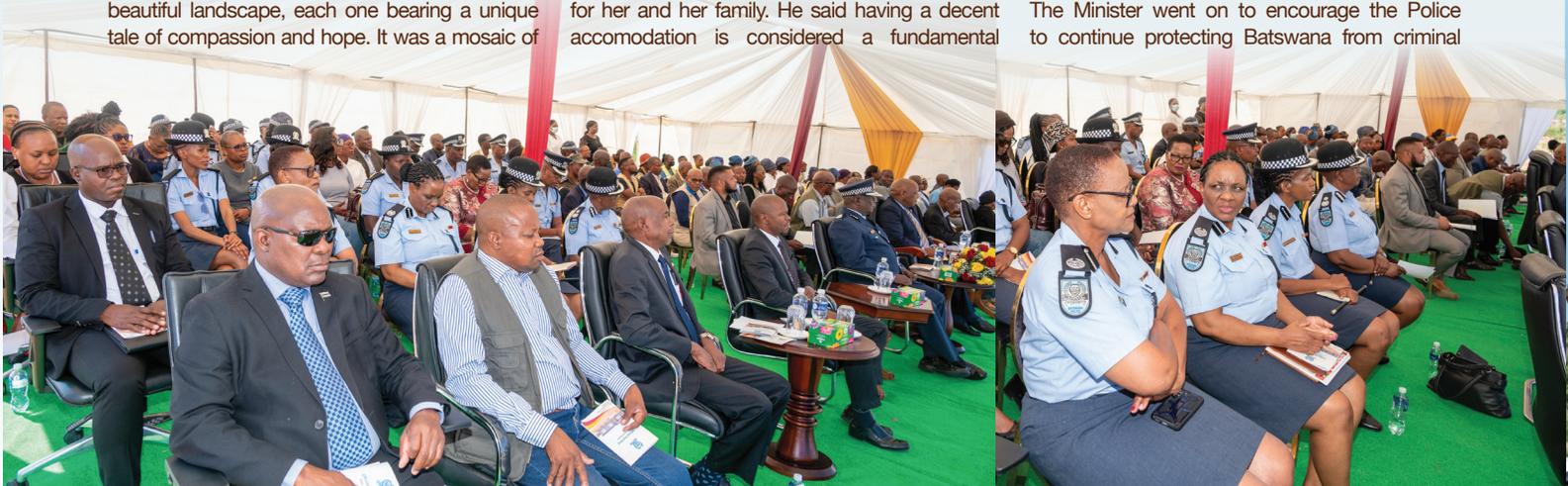
human need, as it provides protection from harsh weather conditions, such as heat, cold, rain, and wind. Honourable Mmusi went on to say that a shelter is also a sanctuary where individuals feel safe and secure.

He said BPS continues to respond to Vision 2036 pillar of Human and Social Development which encourages the society to be a compassionate, just and caring nation.

Hon. Mmusi added that the donation should not be done with pride but as an act of love. He thanked the BPS for the kind gesture they have made and for showing compassion to fellow Batswana and changing a life.

"What you have done today is not only for the Gabanakgosi family but also for the people of Mankgodi at large, I plead with you to continue with this good gesture you have shown here today".

The Minister went on to encourage the Police to continue protecting Batswana from criminal



Some of the dignitaries who graced the event



Kgosi Solofelang Thobega

For his part, the Acting Commissioner of Police Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane said in an effort to take part in improving the livelihoods of Batswana, the Botswana Police Service (BPS) took it upon themselves to contribute from their pockets to give back to the community they serve. He said BPS is not solely known for fighting crime, but involved in a wide range of activities and services that contribute to the well-being of the community.

Mr Ramakorwane said the identification of the family was through the help of the Mogoditshane/Thamaga council who gave the BPS the name of a 70-year-old of Motlhabeng ward, Mmankgodi Village. He further clarified that the plan of the house was done by an architecture within the organisation and was built by police officers. The Acting Commissioner said other materials such as sand and concretes were donated by police officers who just completed their own projects.

activities including the proliferation of illicit drugs and women and child abuse.

He then assured them of his support as the Minister responsible for the defence and security of the nation, "It is my job to stand with you to make sure the police are well resourced for the nation to be secure", assured the Minister.

To the Gabanakgosi family, the Minister encouraged them to take care of the house so that future generations also enjoy it too. The Minister could not end his speech without encouraging the people of Mankgodi to adopt His Excellency the President's Mindset Change campaign into their lives, "you need to also embrace and live the Mindset Change concept with a view to enhancing service delivery".

On issues of crime Mr Mmusi said the country is facing Gender Based Violence incidents which he said can be dealt with only when police and the the community collaborate.

He went on to encourage Mmankgodi residents to join hands with the police in the fight against crime as they know the root cause of crime in their area. The Minister applauded Mmankgodi clusters for their dedication and hard work in the fight against crime and other activities such as cleaning campaigns.

He thanked everyone who contributed in the completion of the house. The Acting Commissioner said he pray to God to bless the family and encouraged them to have compassionate hearts to give to others who are in need.

When welcoming the attendants in his village, Kgosi Solofelang Thobega said he was delighted to witness the handing over a house to the family of Ganakgosi.

"I wish Mr Gabanakgosi was here to witness and receive this gift himself. Because God has his own way of doing things, his family will receive the house". Kgosi Thobega said he is thankful for the gesture the Police have demonstrated as it fosters a sense of human connection, empathy, compassion and selflessness.

Kgosi said it has been said even in the bible that blessed is the hand that giveth. He said this is a quote that reflects the notion that acts of giving



The beneficiary Ms Ditonki Gabanakgosi



Event attendants

and generosity are virtuous and bring blessings or positive outcomes to the giver. He further emphasised the idea that helping others, whether through charitable acts, kindness or support is a noble and rewarding endeavor, stating that giving does not only benefit the recipient but also brings a sense of fulfilment and positivity to the giver.



The donated house

Deputy Commissioner Visits Police Operatives

Story and Photos by Edwin O. Ramotho

Willingness to step out of the comfort of your office to stand beside the officers, is a gesture that fosters a deeper sense of camaraderie among the police officers and a reminder that even the busiest schedules should never disconnect leaders from the realities of those they lead.

This was reiterated by the Deputy Commissioner of Police responsible for Operations, Mr Solomon Mantswe when he visited police operatives across the country recently to motivate and hear their concerns regarding policing duties.

Addressing Police Officers at Districts No. 11, and No.14 in Molepolole and Kanye followed by No.16, No.2 in Mahalapye and Serowe respectively with District No.1 in Francistown being the last, the Deputy Commissioner commended Police officers for their efforts and dedication in curbing crime and ensuring the safety and security of the nation.

Mr Mantswe said it was through such efforts that BPS is able to achieve positive results more especially on cases of robbery that have significantly dropped down in most of the Police Districts. He however said that robberies whereby perpetrators attack people in their homes need to be acted upon swiftly as they tend to live undesirable results on victims.



Deputy Commissioner of Police-Operations, Mr Solomon Mantswe

The Deputy Commissioner implored Police officers to collaborate and integrate their efforts as different units and departments of the organisation in the fight against crime. He stated that through teamwork, desired results would be met. Mr Mantswe warned that criminals's modus operandi have evolved

hence the need to deploy intelligence led policing initiatives. He called upon police officers to be vigilant at all times saying some criminals are motorised and use the same roads, shopping malls and common places to advance their criminal agendas, calling on the police to make utmost efforts

Below pictures from L to R: Police Officers from No.2, No.14 and No.11 Police District at Serowe, Kanye and Molepolole respectively





Head of Salaries and Welfare, Assistant Commissioner of Police Julia Zibochwa



Officer Commanding No.11 Police District, Senior Superintendent Modise Gabatshwane



Officer Commanding No.1 Police District, Senior Superintendent Paul Molapisi

to apprehend perpetrators and bring them to justice.

On issues of stock theft, Mr Mantswe said stock theft is still a concern country-wide, saying the police continue to record high number of such cases. He said Kweneng District continues to lead the country with high number of stock theft cases.

He further advised them to give feedback to customers on time and to maintain good working relations with the communities they serve.

He further advised the management at various Police Establishments to always applaud juniors officers where they have excelled, saying doing such would motivate their officers to do always out do themselves.

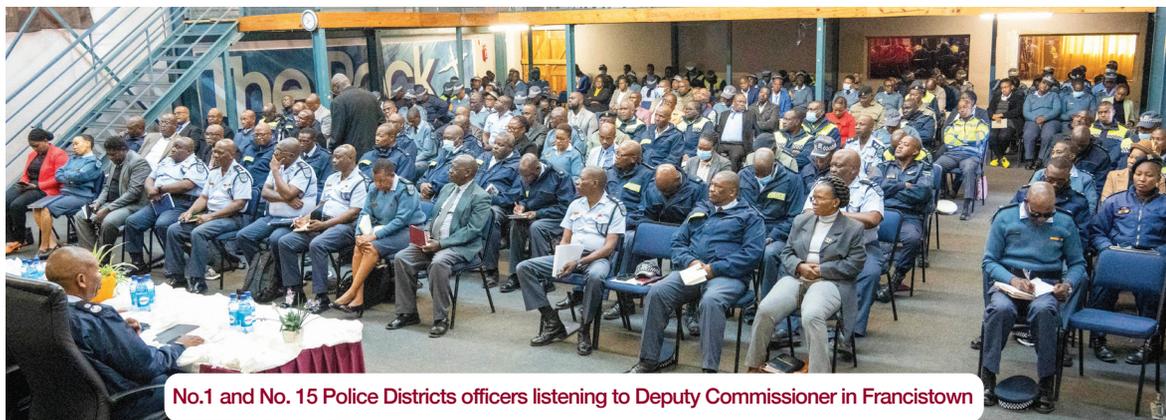
On issues of welfare, Head of Salaries and Welfare, Assistant Commissioner of Police Julia Zibochwa said financial stability and peace of mind are key

for every individual to perform optimally in the work place. She said it is against this background that the BPS recently launched a welfare scheme named Mphempe Insurance Agency (MIA) with the aim of improving accessibility to various insurance policies at affordable rates to its members. Mrs Zibochwa encouraged members of the organisation to take advantage of the scheme to improve their livelihoods.

Officer Commandings for the Police Districts visited expressed their gratitude for the Deputy Commissioner's visit, adding that the interaction will go a long way in motivating the operatives.

For their part, operatives expressed their happiness towards the visit by the Deputy Commissioner saying the visit will go along in igniting a renewed sense of purpose and also bolstering morale which they need in the execution of their duties.

The Deputy Commissioner concluded his trip by visiting the border line between Botswana and Zimbabwe at Mapoka village to appreciate challenges police officers go through in their efforts to combat cross border crime.



No.1 and No. 15 Police Districts officers listening to Deputy Commissioner in Francistown



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

Story and Photos by Sgt Bantshwanetse Keboiretse

October 11 was declared an International Day of the Girl Child by United Nations General Assembly. The Day is aimed to recognise girls' rights and the challenges they face worldwide. It is also intended to address Gender Based Violence (GBV) and related issues, access to education and protection against discrimination amongst others.

The Day was commemorated under the theme **“Invest in the Girl’s Rights; Our Leadership Our Wellbeing.”** As girls and young women around the world celebrated this significant day, three girls being, Daphney Setlhare and Arona Gwai of St Joseph’s College and Katlego Gojahile from Shoshong Senior Secondary School paid a visit to the Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane at Police Headquarters.

Prior to the visit, the students were taken on a guided tour of some police establishments in Gaborone like the

Forensic Science Services (FSS) Branch, Special Support Group (SSG), Gender and Child Protection (GCP) Branch and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Headquarters.

Appreciating their visit, Mr Ramakorwane welcomed and hailed the students for choosing the BPS in order to familiarise themselves with various areas of speciality within the organisation. He apprised the students that the BPS will continue to engage the youth in policy formulations and programmes pertaining to issues that affect them such as GBV, alcohol and drug abuse which are a major concern in the country. He said, it is through their input, that remedial actions could be realised.

The Acting Commissioner encouraged young people to speak out and report GBV incidents and other criminal activities to relevant authorities. Mr Ramakorwane urged the girls to refrain from engaging in criminal activities which can derail them from achieving their goals but rather focus on their studies. He advised the



Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane



Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane (Seated Police Uniform), Deputy Commissioner-Crime Investigations, Mr Busang C. Lesola (Standing 5th from L), members of the BPS Senior Management Team and police officers who accompanied the guests

girls to show high level of competence and capabilities during their school days, as that will ultimately make them future leaders.

The Acting Commissioner donated four laptops to the students and teacher who accompanied them.

Speaking on behalf of the girls, Ms Setlhare said that gone are the days when women were marginalised and relegated to menial jobs and regarded only fit to be house wives. She said women nowadays hold positions of authority and possess equal leadership qualities as their male counterparts.

Ms Setlhare appreciated the various specialised professions that exist in the BPS such as scientists, lawyers, pilots and psychologists, just to mention but a few, adding that the visit accorded them a wider scope of career choices.

She said the establishment of Child Friendly Centres around the country came at an opportune time when issues of GBV are of concern. Ms Setlhare was hopeful that the Centres will bring about confidence in the reporting process as children report freely without fear and intimidation.



Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane giving a token of appreciation to Daphney Setlhare, a student at St Joseph's College.



Arona Gwai, a student at St Joseph's College, receiving a token of appreciation from the Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane.



Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane giving a token of appreciation to Katlego G. Gojahile, a student at Shoshong Senior Secondary School.





Police Recruits Train on

Story and photos by Insp Edwin O. Ramotho



Senior Law Enforcement Expert Mr Anbuen S. Naidoo

Members of the Southern African Migration Management Project from the Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSAF) under the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), based in Pretoria, South Africa, recently held a training workshop for Police Recruits at Botswana Police College in Otse.

Tutoring the trainees on issues of Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling, Law Enforcement Expert, Mr Achaje Magai said the primary purpose of the workshop is to help law enforcement officers deal with incidents of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. He said Botswana has not been spared from human trafficking as it also experiences internal and transnational human trafficking incidents. He said most people are trafficked for sexual exploitation or forced labour practises, adding that victims suffer emotionally, physically and psychologically.

Mr Magai advised trainees to approach victims of human trafficking cautiously to avoid exacerbating their condition as they may have encountered traumatic experiences.

Mr Magai urged police officers to be vigilant while executing their duties, saying criminals always try to outsmart law enforcers to harbour their deeds. Mr Magai implored the participants to thoroughly investigate cases of human trafficking so that perpetrators get convicted. He said proper and

thorough investigation will help eliminate perpetrators of this inhumane act, which continues to haunt millions of people worldwide.

In his presentation, Senior Law Enforcement Expert Mr Anbuen Scott Naidoo said that the UNODC world drug report indicated that drugs affect around 284 million people aged between 15 and 64 worldwide. He said it has been observed that manufacturing of illicit drugs increases annually, saying production of cocaine was at a record high in 2020, having increased by 11 percent compared to 2019.

Mr Naidoo said it was imperative for police officers to up their game when dealing with drug smuggling, saying criminals continue to devise and deploy various techniques to elude the wrath of the law. He said in the past, large quantities of drugs were intercepted at border gates and airports calling on law enforcement officers to adequately equip themselves with necessary skills to be able to identify potential drug smugglers in the execution of their duties. Mr Naidoo noted that women, like their male



Human Trafficking

counterparts, participate in the smuggling of drugs, mainly as mules. He said some of the tactics used by drug smugglers include concealing drugs in fake silicon belly, wigs and many others to avoid arrest at police check points. The Senior Law Enforcement Expert concluded by

advising law enforcement officers to do their job diligently and save the future generation from illicit drugs.

The four-day workshop was attended by over 400 recruit constables currently on training at the college.



Law Enforcement Expert Mr Achaje Magai



Members of the ROSAF under UNODC in Pretoria, South Africa, Assistant Training Officer (Pre-Service), Assistant Superintendent Goitsemodimo Simane (Seated 2nd from R) with trainees at Police College

CHILD FRIENDLY CENTRES A NECESSITY

Story by S/I Kefilwe Bafana

Photos by Cst Boemo

Botswana Police Service has prioritised child protection and established Child Friendly Centres (CFCs) to ensure proper handling of children in contact with the law either as victims, suspects or witnesses. These CFCs are a safe and welcoming space specifically designed to cater for the needs of children who have traumatic experiences or who are involved in matters that needs police intervention.

Recently the community of Palapye converged at Palapye Central Police Station to witness the official opening of yet another Child Friendly Centre facility. In his Keynote address, the Deputy Commissioner of Police responsible for Crime Investigations, Mr Busang Cornelius Lesola raised concern about the increasing cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and abuse of children in the country was a concern.

“These escalating cases calls for stakeholders, be it the



Deputy Commissioner-Crime Investigations Mr Busang C. Lesola



Kgosi Martha Lebang of Palapye

community or other relevant authorities to improve their services on handling of these cases.” This is why the Botswana Police have established the Gender and Child Protection Branch to handle cases of GBV and child abuse,” said Mr Lesola.

He therefore, said provision of Child Friendly Centres in Palapye would provide a conducive environment for child abuse cases to be reported and investigated.

“Parents and other concerned parties will now be able to

come to the Police Station to report any case of abuse against children,” he said.

He said the Service Centre was the seventh to be built since the establishment of the ‘Gender and Child Protection Branch in the



Palapye C



Some of the people who attended the event

BPS. Deputy Commissioner went on to highlight that the establishment of these CFCs were made possible through partnership with UNICEF, British and Japanese governments.

Giving welcome remarks, Kgosi Martha Lebang of Palapye said the facility came at a time when Palapye was hard hit by increase in diverse challenges posed

by crime including GBV and abuse of children. She said Palapye is gradually growing into a cosmopolitan area thus attracting people from different walks of life resulting in the increase of GBV and other heinous crimes affecting children.

Kgosi Lebang said she was hopeful that the BPS, through its CFC's intends to befriend minor children, bring them

closer to protection and allow them to freely talk about abuses they face.

She applauded the BPS for establishing CFC's throughout the country. She said Palapye region is vast and pleaded with BPS management to consider establishing another center in the Tswapong area. She further requested for the establishment of centres for women which will be user

friendly to allow women to open up and speak freely about the abuses they face on a daily basis.

The tribal leader went on to implore parents, teachers and guardians to monitor children's use of social media and technology as children continue to be victim of both cyber bullying and exploitation in the cyber space.



Palapye Central Police Station, Child Friendly Centre



Director Air Support Branch, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Arthur Johnson



Phero Wellness Clinic Psychiatrist Dr Keneilwe Molebatsi

Physical and Mental Fitness

Story by: Cst Olorato Gadibolae
 Photos by: Insp Edwin O. Ramotho
 Sgt Bantshwanetse Keboiretsewe
 Cst Olorato Gadibolae

Physical and mental fitness are essential for police officers as the job is complex and demanding in its nature. This is reiterated by Army Mark T. Esper, former United States Secretary of the Army when he said “If you’re not physically fit for combat, then we’re not only doing you an injustice, we’re doing an injustice to your colleagues and peers as well.” The quote emphasises that officers must be prepared both physically and mentally to respond to combat situations.

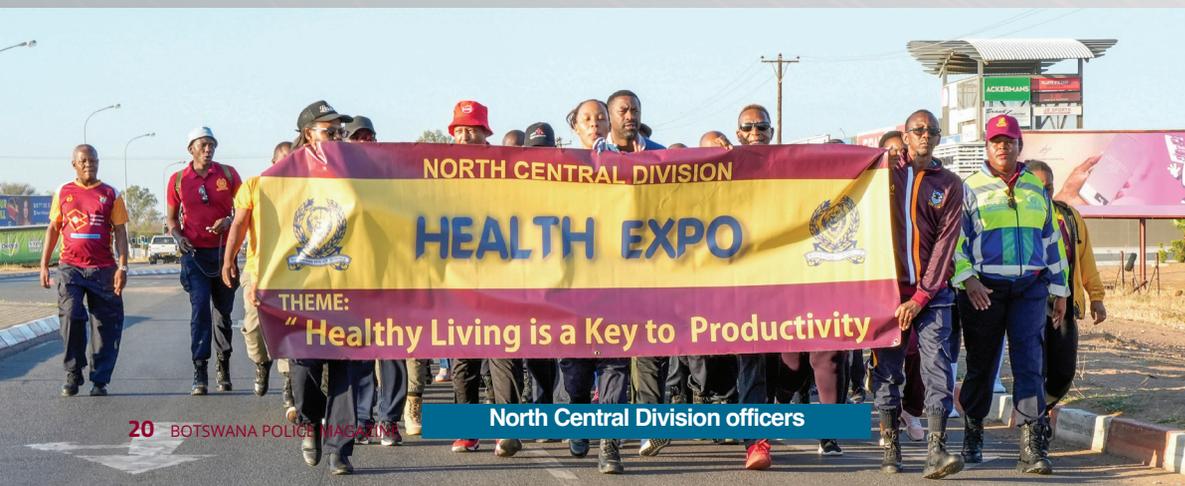
Unfortunately, it is not always the case as police officers are also susceptible to the ailments caused by various factors some of which can be managed.

In its endeavour to attain productivity and efficiency in the workplace, Botswana Police Service (BPS) through its various establishments embarked on a journey to promote health and wellness.

The BPS through the Occupational Health, Safety, Chaplaincy and Social

Welfare (OHSCSW) Unit conducts wellness and fitness workshops regularly to sensitise officers on health issues. In one such event organised by Air Support Branch at Maruapula Community Hall recently, speakers urged police officers to embrace the Mind-Set Change concept by doing things differently to improve their health.

Officiating at the event, the Director of Air Support Branch, Senior Assistant Commissioner, Arthur Johnson said,



North Central Division officers



Forensic Science Service officers



Palapye/Serowe District Health Management Team Coordinator Dr Tom Kelemogile Baaisi



North Central Division officers doing health screening tests

Health is Essential For Productivity

Police officers need occasional motivation to reignite their energy and passion hence the wellness programme. He further said since police officers are an icon of public trust, it is vital for them to be physically and mentally fit. “We need to protect the integrity of our organisation by ensuring that we attain optimum health at all costs. I encourage you to take heed of the message delivered by health and financial practitioners on different aspects of wellness.”

In a similar event organised in Palapye by the North Central Division, Palapye/Serowe District Health Management Team (DHMT) Coordinator, Dr Tom

Kelemogile Baaisi challenged attendants to make it a habit to undergo health screenings and make informed decisions on their health.

“It has been established that early diagnosis could help avert what could otherwise be a drastic or chronic disorder that threatens one’s life.”

Dr Baaisi called on officers to prevent non-communicable diseases as they are costly to the government and individuals. He added that non-communicable conditions such as cardiovascular-related, tumor, and diabetes, continue to claim millions of lives annually around

the world, saying Botswana is not spared from such deaths, hence the need to take preventative measures.

Speaking at another event organised by Forensic Science Services Branch, Dr Keneilwe Molebatsi, a Psychiatrist at Phemo Wellness Clinic implored officers to undergo counselling after attending traumatic incidents to safeguard their mental status. She explained that suppressed trauma can lead to mental breakdown. Dr Molebatsi further noted that mental health is a major concern in the workplace and communities which usually result in poor performance in the workplace.



Services Branch officers



Air Support Branch officers

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 labours, for their deeds follow them!"



Superintendent Simon Reuben- Maboka
Died: 14-Oct-2023
Last Station: Police Headquarters



Constable Tikologo Mampo
Died: 07-Nov-23
Last Station: Sejelo



Constable Tiharese Letlamma
Died: 22-Nov-23
Last Station: Gumare



Sergeant Kgathego Maswabi
Died: 27-Nov-23
Last Station: Tatitown



Sergeant Cynthia Lenkopane
Died: 29-Nov-23
Last Station: Kang



Constable Gorataone Haengora
Died: 30-Nov-23
Last Station: Goodhope



Constable Omen Seepo
Died: 08-Jan-24
Last Station: Dukwi



Sub Inspector Kenneth Mmopi
Died: 13-Jan-24
Last Station: Broadhurst

May Their Souls
Rest In Peace



KE TSAA TSHWETSO

TO STAY ALERT MO TSELENG

- And never walk along or cross the road with headphones on



- By ignoring my cellphone and other distractions while driving

- By never texting when driving

**Sustaining Botswana's Legacy
by cultivating responsible use of the road
by the youth leaders of tomorrow**



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A re *chencheng!*

**“ We think differently
and old limits no longer
apply”**

#BWmindset*change*