



— HAPPY —
Retirement

SOLOMON S. MANTSWÉ

Rtd. Deputy Commissioner of Police

PROFILE

42

YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE

Commissioner of Police **Commissioner Marathe's Farewell Message**



As we gather to celebrate the remarkable career of Deputy Commissioner Solomon Seoketsi Mantswe, I am filled with both pride and gratitude. Pride in the legacy he leaves behind and gratitude for the many years on unwavering service, leadership and dedication he has given to our organisation. Mr Mantswe has been more than a colleague, he has been a pillar of excellence, a mentor to many and a true embodiment of the values we hold dear.

From the very beginning of his journey with us, Mr Mantswe distinguished himself through his integrity, professionalism and tireless commitment to the mission of our organisation. Whether navigating complex challenges or guiding teams through periods of change, he brought clarity, compassion and wisdom to every situation. His ability to lead with both heart and intellect has left a lasting impression on all who have had the privilege of working with him.

Through his tenure, Mr Mantswe played a pivotal role in shaping our strategic direction, strengthening our operations and fostering a culture of collaboration and respect. His contributions have touched every corner of our organisation, from policy development and programme implementation to staff development and community engagement. He has been a trusted advisor, a steady hand and a source of inspiration.

But beyond the professional achievements, it is Mr Mantswe's character that we will miss most. His humility, his generosity and his unwavering belief in the potential of others have made him not a respected leader but also a cherished friend. He has celebrated our successes, lifted us in times of challenge and reminded us always of importance of service.

With heartfelt appreciation

Commissioner of Police, Commissioner Dinah Marathe



Personal Profile of Service

ATTESTED: 05/10/1983

RETIRES: 31/12/2026

LENGTH OF SERVICE: 42 Years

FIRST POSTING: 15/05/1984

TRANSFERS:

Francistown Police Station	15/05/1984
Police Headquarters	18/04/1988

MEDALS:

09/08/2003: Botswana Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (L.S.G.C.M.)

10/08/2010: Botswana Police Jubilee Service Medal (J.S.M.)

07/07/2015: Botswana Police Distinguished Service Order Medal (D.S.O.)

06/08/2016: Botswana Police Service Medal of Meritorious Service (B.P.M.)

PROMOTIONS:

01/04/1990:	Sergeant
01/04/1991:	Sub Inspector
01/04/1997:	Inspector
01/06/2000:	Assistant Superintendent
01/04/2002:	Superintendent
01/04/2004:	Senior Superintendent - PRO
01/04/2009:	Assistant Commissioner of Police - SOCO
01/04/2012:	Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police - Director, DMS
09/07/2021:	Deputy Commissioner of Police -Support Services

BOARDS APPOINTMENT:

2017: Chairman of Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund

2022: Non-Executive Director of Turnstar 28/07/2022 (Retired from Board 28/07/2025)

Formative Years of Solomon

By Cst Justin Gaagakwe



Seoketsi Mantswhe

Mr Solomon Seoketsi Mantswhe retired at the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Police(Support Services) and became a civilian late December last year, 2025. He joined Botswana Police Service (BPS) at the age of 19 years and rose through the ranks until he hit the retirement rope. Born in Mochudi, Kgatleng region and grew up in Kopong and Gaborone, the young, energetic and enthusiastic Mantswhe had aspirations of becoming a Bank teller.

The thought of dealing with money excited the young lad, little did he know that he will have a different path after completing his studies. If it wasn't destiny then we cannot define the twist to his story, Mantswhe played street football and softball in his teen years and later played for Manana Aces football, a team in his locality that would later narrow his path. Because most of his teammates were police office officers, they managed to get to him and that's how he joined the then Botswana Police Force in 1983.

His hard work, determination and intelligence did not fail him and he was the best all round student at College, as a reward he chose his preferred area of work after pass out. "I chose Serowe as my first work station but because I was a footballer (defender), I was instructed by senior officers to join Francistown Central Police, so that I can play for Great North Tigers Football Club".

The young Mantswhe patrolled the streets of Francistown (Bluejacket and Haskins streets) with a lot of determination, zest and gusto, to protect Batswana. Smiles could be seen on his face as he narrates his life journey in Francistown. Through various leadership in Francistown, he remains grateful as they taught him good ethics, responsibility and balance in life.

One of the most defining career moment was when he enrolled for a Basic Journalism Course at Radio Botswana and becoming

a police journalist. "I spent most of my policing years as a police journalist, I was nominated to apply for a course at Radio Botswana in 1987 or 1988, I was focusing on print media." Upon completion, he was transferred to Gaborone where he was able to practice. Luckily for him, Police XI Football Club also needed his services as there was a shortage of players. He did what he enjoyed the most (football) at the same time practicing Journalism. Under the tutelage of the pioneers of the Newsletter (Mr Victor Gani just to name a few) he became a journalist of note.





POEM

By Cst Tshepang Boemo

The Steadfast Path of Solomon Mantswe”
In days of dawn, when duty called,
A young man rose, answered with pride
With intents so pure and heart so true,
He donned the badge.

His footsteps silent, yet firm with purpose,
A sentinel's strength upon his face.
Through dusty roads and sleepless nights,
He guarded peace, upheld the rights.
Each challenge met with steady hand,
A pillar sworn to serve the land.

Years rolled on, his name would grow,
A guide for those who'd learn and show.
With much wisdom and justice,
His counsel echoed far.

Through storms of time and ranks he climbed,
His legacy in service rhymed.
Not seeking fame, nor fleeting praise,
But truth and honour marked his days.

Till duty's crest, he reached so high,
Deputy Commissioner, standing nigh.
A leader strong, both firm and kind,
Whose guiding light remains behind..

Now as he lays his badge in retirement,
With grateful hearts we speak, impressed
For though the uniform may fade from view,
The legacy of Mantswe remains steadfast and true.

So raise a toast, let voices blend,
To the officer, mentor, leader, friend.
For history keeps, in its noble way,
The light he shone.
Adiós, jefe

Exploring the Voice Behind the Badge: *Mantswe's PR Legacy*

By Supt Selebatso Mooketsi

When the history of the Botswana Police Service' communication and public engagement is written, one name will stand tall – Mr Solomon Mantswe. For some time, he was the voice behind the badge, shaping how the Police connected with the public, the media and its own officers. His journey, which began in May 1988 when he was transferred from Francistown to Police Headquarters, is a story of dedication, innovation and an unwavering belief in the power of dialogue.

From Newsletter Section to Public Relations Unit

Mr Mantswe joined the then Newsletter Section at Police Headquarters under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), led at the time by Assistant Commissioner of Police Calvin Sekwababe. Arriving as a young Constable transferred from Francistown Police Station, he found himself among colleagues Messers Victor Ghanie, Kesetsenao Tshweneetsile, Mahoko Wusi Tamajobe, Christopher Mbulawa, Witness Bosija, Dipheko Motube, Joseph Moakofi, Motshidisi Boranabi and Mrs Sarah Gabathusi and Mrs Cathrine Rauwe nee Puso.

Together, they formed the backbone of a small but ambitious team divided into print and radio sections. The Information Section's mandate was clear: provide media coverage of police activities, especially crime prevention initiatives across the country. They conducted interviews for both Police Radio programme called Police Today/Sepodisi Gompiano by then and produced articles for the Newsletter. Importantly, they learnt that effective public relations begins internally-collaborating with officers before engaging external stakeholders.

Over time, the Section evolved into the Public Relations Unit, expanding its scope to include television amongst others. The launch of a national TV programme in 2006 was a milestone, bringing crime prevention education directly into homes and cementing the Unit's role as a vital bridge between the Police and the public.

The Rise of a Spokesperson

Mr Mantswe's career trajectory within the Unit was remarkable. Initially working in print, he later assumed the role of Public Relations Officer after Senior Superintendent Mbulawa was transferred to serve as Staff Officer to the Commissioner Edwin Jenamiso Batshu. Years later, the



two (Mantswe and Mbulawa) would switch roles again, but by then Senior Superintendent Mantswe had already established himself as a trusted spokesperson.

Mr Mantswe's philosophy was simple yet profound: "As a spokesperson, it is imperative to put the facts and allow the public to judge. You cannot achieve that by shouting at the top of your voice. You speak calmly and clearly."

This approach defined his tenure. He believed transparency and trust were the cornerstones of effective communication. By handling the media with openness and respect, he ensured that the Police's voice was authoritative yet approachable.

Campaigns, Courses and Community Engagement

Mr Mantswe invested deeply in his professional growth, completing a journalism course in India and Mass Communication studies in Zimbabwe. These experiences sharpened his skills and broadened his perspective.

Among his many initiatives, one stands out - the Police Crime Prevention Knock Out Quiz. Conceived by Mr Mantswe and conducted with Sergeant Onalenna Otimile by then, the quiz engaged junior secondary school children nationwide. Broadcast on national radio, it educated young audiences about the dangers of crime while rewarding them with prizes that motivated participation. It was a campaign that blended education with entertainment, leaving a lasting impact on communities. His proudest moments included accompanying the Commissioner of Police, Mr Norman Seduma Moleboge on an official trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the United States and the United Kingdom - his first journey across the Atlantic Ocean. He returned with stories and insights that enriched the Newsletter. Another highlight was the launch of the Police Television Programme in 2006, a groundbreaking step in public engagement.

Responsibilities and Legacy

As Public Relations Officer, Mr Mantswe's responsibilities were vast

- **Media liaison** – ensuring accurate coverage of police activities.
- **Crisis communication** – managing sensitive issues with clarity and composure.
- **Community outreach** – spearheading campaigns that educated and empowered citizens.
- **Internal communication** – fostering collaboration within the Botswana Police Service.

Under his stewardship, police public relations evolved from a modest newsletter into a dynamic, multi-platform communication unit. His calm demeanor, strategic vision and commitment to truth built bridges of trust between the Police and the public.

Reflection and Farewell

In reflecting on his journey, Mr Mantswe acknowledged mentors like Botswana Police Service Performance Improvement Coordinator, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Ikwalhaeng Bagopi, who shaped his professional outlook. He also recognised the collective spirit of his colleagues, who together transformed the Unit into a

cornerstone of the Police Service. As he retired in December 2025 as Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr Mantswe left behind more than a career - he left a legacy of voice, vision, and values. His story is not just about public relations; it is about the power of communication to build trust, prevent crime and strengthen the bond between the Police and the people they serve. Mr Mantswe's journey reminds us that behind every badge is a voice - calm, clear and committed to truth. His legacy will continue to inspire the Public Relations Unit and the Police Service for generations to come.

Highlights of Mr Mantswe's PR Journey

- *1988 – Joining the Newsletter Section - Transferred from Francistown, Mr Mantswe began his journey as a Constable in the Newsletter Section under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). He worked alongside pioneers in both print and radio, laying the foundation for modern police communications.*
- *1990s – Growing with the Unit - As the Newsletter Section expanded, Mr Mantswe embraced professional development, completing journalism and mass communication courses abroad. His skills elevated the Unit's credibility and strengthened its voice.*
- *2000s – Campaigns and Innovation*
- *Conceived the Police Crime Prevention Knock Out Quiz, engaging school children nationwide through radio.*
- *Played a key role in the launch of the Police Television Programme in 2006, a milestone in crime prevention education.*
- *International Representation - Nominated to accompany the Commissioner of Police on official trips to Brazil, the United States and the United Kingdom, Mr Mantswe proudly represented the Public relations Unit abroad, later writing insightful articles for the Newsletter.*
- *Spokesperson Leadership - As Public Relations Officer, Mr Mantswe became the calm, clear voice of the Botswana Police Service. His philosophy emphasised transparency, trust and respectful engagement with the media and the public.*
- *Legacy - From a modest Newsletter Section to a fully-fledged Public Relations Unit, Mr Mantswe's journey reflects vision, resilience and dedication. His campaigns, leadership and voice continue to inspire the next generation of police communicators.*

Solomon Mantswe as *Staff Officer*

By Insp Obusitswe Puleng

In 2007, Senior Superintendent Solomon Mantswe was redeployed to be a Staff Officer to then Commissioner of Police, Thebeyame Tsimako. His new assignment was different from that of a Public Relations Officer as it involved facilitating administrative and operational duties and ensuring the efficient functioning of the office of the Commissioner. He also ensured implementation of directives and monitor implementation of policies and reports compliance.

Mr Mantswe recalled that his main duties included writing of speeches for the Commissioner, production of the Organisation's Annual Report and Minutes of the Annual Senior Officers Conference as well as manning the Commissioner's diary. He worked closely with the Commissioner's Secretary and made professional recommendations that assisted in decision making, planned operations and coordinated activities and advise accordingly.

For him to be successful on his new assignment, Mr Mantswe received great mentorship from the likes of retired Deputy Commissioner Ikwatthaeng Bagopi and others, who were very instrumental in showing him the ropes on how to navigate in his new role. Mr Bagopi had vast experience as he had been staff officer to two retired Commissioners (Messrs; Simon Hirschfeld and Norman Moleboge).

"Writing speeches is a powerful tool for communicating organisational policies and strategies. I was supposed to prepare for them and come up with relevant information on the topic to be discussed at any given event. I had to be knowledgeable on different aspects both locally and internationally, hence intense researches and reading", Mr



Mantswe noted. He also served as a crucial link between the Commissioner, deputy commissioners, senior officers and government ministries. His performance did not go unnoticed, as it was a defining chapter that sharpened his leadership skills and broadened his strategic outlook.

In 2009, Mr Mantswe was promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police. The main challenge was that he worked beyond normal work hours, as he had to do researches on different topics that contributed to the Commissioner's speech. He had to coordinate local and international trips.

'I was supposed to prepare for them and come up with relevant information on the topic to be discussed at any given event. I had to be knowledgeable on different aspects both locally and internationally, hence intense researches and reading', Mr Mantswe noted.'



Mantswe as Family Man



By Cst Olorato Gadibolae

For Mr. Mantswe, policing was never just a profession but a lifelong commitment shaped by family, culture, and an unwavering sense of duty. A Mochudi native, he is a traditional Mokgatla man from the Manoga Mophato, firmly grounded in values that guided both his personal life and his 42-year career in the police service.

At the centre of his journey, is the family he built with his wife, Mrs. Neo Mantswe. Married and blessed with four children, the Mantswe family grew together throughout the years he wore the uniform. Reflecting on those years, Mr. Mantswe acknowledges that the early stages were not easy. “It was more difficult during the formative years of the children,” Mr Mantswe said. “Policing demands a lot of time, and sometimes that meant being away from home.”

He gave credit to his wife as the backbone of the family. “My wife and I grew together while I was in the police service,” he explained. “She learned to adapt to the demands of my work, and she supported me throughout my career.” Mrs. Mantswe also played a key role in helping the children understand the nature of their father’s work. “She assured them that I could not always be there because of my job, and that helped them cope,” he added.

In his home, Mr. Mantswe was intentional about the values he passed on. “The values I entrusted in my family are trust and respect,” he says. These principles became the foundation of family life and mirrored the discipline and integrity he upheld in his professional duties.

Balancing work and family, particularly at senior management level, required honest conversations and acceptance. Mr. Mantswe recalls the advice he received early in his leadership journey. “Those who came before us warned us that when you reach senior management, you will miss many activities at home,” he said. “They told us that work would often have to be prioritised, and that it was important to make sure your family understands that reality.”

Despite the sacrifices, his commitment to service remains a source of pride. “I am proud that I committed 42 years of my life to serving members of the community,” Mr. Mantswe said. He also reflects fondly on his time at Police IX, noting that those memories remain close to his heart.

As he transitions into retirement, Mr. Mantswe sees it as the beginning of a new chapter rather than an end. “I am starting a new horizon in farming,” he shared. “For the past seven years, I have been learning advanced animal rearing, and I look forward to focusing more on that.” He also plans to remain active in community policing and to continue strengthening his faith. “My Christian life is important to me, and I am a member of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa,” he said.

When asked how he would like to be remembered, his response is simple and humble. “I would like to be remembered as a humble servant of the public,” Mr. Mantswe said.



Beyond a distinguished career in law enforcement, former Deputy Commissioner, Support Services Solomon Mantswe has carved out a lasting legacy in football, a sport that has shaped both his footballing journey and his approach to leadership. A passionate player and lifelong advocate of the game, he has consistently used football as a vehicle for promoting discipline, teamwork and youth development within his community. Whether in uniform or on the touchline, his leadership has reflected the same values that defined his policing career.

Mr Mantswe's love affair with football began at the tender age of seven, when he served as a ball boy for Township Rollers, then training in his neighbourhood. From the sidelines, he absorbed every movement and moment, watching the club's stars with wide-eyed admiration. It was during those formative years that his passion for the game took root, fuelled by a growing dream to one day emulate his heroes and forge a name for himself on the pitch.

Those dreams were sharpened on the dusty streets of New Naledi, where a young Mantswe honed his skills before joining Manana Aces Football Club, a team largely composed of police officers. Recognising both his talent and character, his mates encouraged him to join the then Botswana Police Force, a path that would ultimately shape the dual trajectory of his life in service and sport.

Affectionately known in football circles as "Bumgee," a nickname inspired by his admiration for former Moroka Swallows player Sulley Bumgee, Mantswe became synonymous with defensive grit and reliability. On the field, he was a commanding presence, most at home at left-back or centre-back. Renowned for his physicality and uncompromising style, he described himself as a no-nonsense defender who thrived on strength, crunching tackles and dominating one-on-one battles.

His footballing journey within the Botswana Police Force began almost as soon as he enlisted. While undergoing police training, he

MANTSWE IN THE FOOTBALL SPACE

By Cst Morgan Mmereki



turned out for Recruits XI, a team made up of fellow trainees. After completing his training in 1983, he was posted to Serowe Police Station, a move that marked the beginning of his formal service career.

The posting proved brief, Recognising his footballing ability, police authorities soon transferred him to Francistown to strengthen Great North Tigers (GNT), a police football club based in the city. There, he cemented his reputation as a dependable defender, serving the club with distinction for four years between 1984 and 1988.

In 1988, Mr Mantswe was transferred to Gaborone, where he took up duties with the Police Newsletter. The relocation to the southern part of the country also marked a new chapter in his football journey. He joined Police XI, the Gaborone-based police football team, quickly establishing himself as a seasoned and influential figure within the squad.



Over the next three years, from 1988 to 1991, he represented Police XI with the same discipline and commitment that had come to define his career, blending experience with leadership as he continued to serve both the game and the institution that had shaped his life.

Mr Mantswe's playing days at Police XI were marked by near triumphs and fierce competition. During his time with the club, he helped guide the team to two consecutive Lions Cup finals in 1988 and 1989. On both occasions, Police XI fell just short, losing to BDF XI, and also finished as league runners-up in those same seasons. Despite the disappointment, the campaigns remain a testament to a side that consistently competed at the highest level.

Among the many matches he played, one encounter stands out vividly in Mr Mantswe's memory, a Lions Cup knockout clash during his time at GNT against Notwane Football Club at a packed Francistown Stadium. Facing a seasoned first-division outfit as a second-division side gave the match added significance and lifted the team's morale.

"We started the match on a high and managed to take an early lead," he recalled. "But our inexperience cost us in the final minutes as we conceded three goals in the last ten minutes and lost 3–1. Even though we were beaten, it remains the most memorable and enjoyable match I ever played."

Bumgee's playing days came to an end when he left the country to further his journalism studies in Zimbabwe, bringing down the curtain on an era defined by commitment and physical sacrifice. While the boots were hung up, his connection to the game remained unbroken.

Upon his return to Botswana, he rejoined Police XI this time off the field taking up a role in the club's administration as a Public Relations Officer. From that position, he steadily rose through the ranks of the club's leadership, earning respect for his professionalism, institutional knowledge and steady hand. His journey through the administrative corridors of the club eventually culminated in his appointment as chairman.

Beyond club football, his influence extended to the national stage. During his time in management, Mr Mantswe also served on the Botswana Football Association's Disciplinary Committee, contributing to the governance of the game and reinforcing the principles of fairness and discipline that had long guided his life in uniform.

In reflecting on Mr Mantswe's journey, it is clear that football was never merely a pastime, but a lifelong companion that mirrored and reinforced his values of discipline, service and leadership. From the dusty streets of New Naledi to the administrative corridors of Police XI and the Botswana Football Association, his influence has been felt both on and off the field.

From Badge to Boardroom

By Insp Macdonald Kengaletswe

A peep into the Former Deputy Commissioner of Police, Support Services, Mr Solomon Mantswe, reveals a man who seemed to have been determined not to become a one-trick pony. His career reads like a deliberate quest to master multiple arenas, each demanding its own brand of discipline, leadership and vision.

Long before he stepped into the world of pension governance, Mr Mantswe had already built a reputation as both a dedicated police officer and an accomplished sportsman. Yet even that impressive résumé was not enough to satisfy his appetite for growth.

In 2013, he ventured into new territory when he joined the Board of the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) as a Trustee. It marked the beginning of a chapter that would see him evolve from a quiet student of pension governance into one of the Fund's most influential leaders.

By the time he joined the Board, Mantswe was no stranger to leadership or communication. With more than two decades of professional experience behind him, he had honed his skills in policing, public relations and strategic management. Those competencies proved invaluable in the complex world of pension governance, where trust, transparency and accountability form the backbone of institutional credibility.

Rather than seeking the spotlight, Mantswe approached his early days on the Board with humility and focus. "I immersed myself in understanding the intricate frameworks that guide pension fund operations, from governance structures and investment oversight to policy architecture designed to safeguard the Fund's long-term sustainability," he reflected

His diligence did not go unnoticed. Between May 2015 and

March 2017, Mantswe served as Chairman of the Marketing and Communications Committee, a role that allowed him to merge his governance responsibilities with his deep-rooted communications expertise.

Having started his career as a news reporter in 1988 before later becoming the Public Relations Officer for the Botswana Police Service, Mantswe understood something fundamental: "institutions thrive when their stakeholders feel informed, included and confident in the system".

Under his stewardship, the Fund sharpened its communication strategy and strengthened its engagement with members, ensuring that public officers entrusted with the Fund's care remained well informed about its direction and performance.

By the time his name was proposed for the position of Board Chairman in 2017, Mantswe had already built a strong foundation within the organisation. His journey from Trustee to committee chair and ultimately to Board Chairman was less a dramatic leap and more a natural progression shaped by dedication, consistency and an unwavering commitment to service.

His rise illustrated a powerful principle: preparation meeting opportunity. Years of steady contribution, professional growth and deep institutional understanding positioned him perfectly to assume the Fund's top leadership role.

As Chairman, Mantswe brought with him not only institutional memory but also a leadership style grounded in communication and collaboration. Recognising the diverse composition of the Board, he prioritised consensus-building while maintaining firm oversight of the Fund's fiduciary responsibilities.

“Coming from an organisation that values teamwork helped me focus on consensus-building while maintaining firm oversight of fiduciary responsibilities in my role as Board Chair,” he explains.

At the core of Mantswe’s leadership philosophy lies a simple but powerful belief: strong leadership, transparency and cooperation are the pillars of sustainable development. For a pension fund tasked with safeguarding the retirement security of thousands of public officers, these principles were not abstract ideals, they are essential to the Fund’s very mission.

Under his leadership, the Fund entered one of its most profitable and transformative periods. The Fund saw a significant investment growth from P51.7 billion in 2018/19 to P94.7 billion in 2022/23. “Not only was the Fund successful, but it managed to withstand the COVID-19-related economic storms and remained a robust entity.”

From the discipline of policing to the strategic corridors of pension governance, Mr Mantswe’s journey is proof that leadership is not confined to one profession. Sometimes, the most impactful leaders are those willing to step beyond their comfort zones and apply their skills wherever they are needed most.



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SOLOMON MANTSWE NEW BOARD CHAIRMAN

Mr Solomon Mantswe’s career in communications has spanned over twenty years. He is currently the Director of Departmental Management Services, a position he has held since 2012.

Prior to his appointment as Board Chairman he has served BPOPF as a Marketing and Communication Chairman from May 2015 – March 2018. He was appointed BPOPF Trustee in April 2013. Mr Mantswe earned a diploma in News Agency Journalism in 1998, majoring in development journalism. He has equipped himself further, and holds a number of strategic and leadership certificates. His belief is that strong leadership, transparency and cooperation

are the key ingredients to fostering wealth and development.

Mantswe began his career in communications as a news reporter in 1988, and steadily built his professional skills and reputation, becoming a Public Relations Officer in the Botswana Police Service in 2002. In 2007 he served as the Staff Officer to the Commissioner General, a position that he held until 2012.



BOTSWANA PUBLIC OFFICERS
**PENSION
FUND**

Driving Member Value

The Pen Behind the Bagde: A Piece from Mantswe's Newsletter Days

POLICE NEWS LETTER JUNE 1972, PAGE 18

BOIYANE WAIRE Protectorate Police Stalwart

By Solomon Mantswe

Since the formation of the Police Force a Century ago (1885) brave men and women have joined the Organisation, served devotedly with absolute grit and retired to relax and cherish the memories of a job they so much loved.

Manyanga and Waire are two such men, who, during their active service were known for their efficiency and prompt action when dealing with cases of emergency.

When I grew up as a young man in the good old days, my grandmother would send me to the store and say "Ngwanaka o siane ka sepihi saga Manyanga le Waire", meaning I should run as fast as Manyanga and Waire.

I would start wondering who these people were, and finally say, 'well', it is one of those tales granny used to recite at night beside the fire.

It was after joining the force that I started hearing a lot of stories of how these two men used to work day and night in pursuit of criminals.

A growing desire to know more about them led me to Mahalapye, a village 189 kilometers North of Gaborone. There I met with oldman Boiyane Waire, now retired and headman of Dilaene ward.

The old police veteran sighed and slumped into an armchair before starting his story as a colonial officer.

Waire joined the Police force on the 3rd of December, 1952. It was during the Bamangwato tribal conflicts between the late first President of the Republic of Botswana, Sir Seretse Khama and his uncle Tshekedi Khama.

This chaos led to Tshekedi and his followers migrating to Rametšana, a small settlement near Lephephe village.

When the situation seemed to be going out of control, the Protectorate government, through its high Commissioner in Pretoria was compelled to employ Policemen outside Botswana for reinforcement.

Policemen were employed from Lesotho, Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia),

and Swaziland. "This was possible because the high Commissioner in Pretoria was responsible for all the British colonies in Southern Africa", said the 68 year old Waire, who joined force as a mere driver and retired as an Assistant Superintendent of Police.

In 1959 Waire was transferred to Lobatse where he met his friend and co-worker, constable Manyanga. "I still remember our old Bedford BPX 533 which we used for patrols in our area", he said.

There are a lot of incidents which made Manyanga and Waire so popular in their policing area.

One such incident which made them such household names occurred in 1970. A British prominent farmer and businessman Sir Russel, was found murdered and his body mutilated in the morning.

Waire, who was a Sergeant by then, quickly dispatched men to the scene and were soon on the trail of the assailants.

In no time information was re-

ceived that the victim's vehicle had been seen at Digawana village. "I was on my way within minutes and by the time Headquarters received the message of the murder, we had already arrested the first suspect at 10 in the morning", he said.

He said it was possible to identify the suspect quickly because he was putting on the dead man's clothes at the time of his arrest.

The second suspect was arrested at four in the afternoon and everything that had been stolen recovered, including the vehicle.

The two men were subsequently tried and sentenced to death by the High Court in Lobatse.

"From that time onwards people had great trust in us and knew we could offer help within the least possible time," he said.

Another incident that remains vivid in the oldman's mind came in April, 1969 at Hildavale when he was held at gunpoint by thieves.

The three men had broken into a farmhouse and stole pistols and ammunition from the farmer.

Waire and his men tracked them to Hildavale where they caught up with them.

Sergeant Waire was the first to locate one of the men. The man immediately aimed a pistol at him and ordered him to raise his hands. "I obeyed and as he relaxed I hit him on the face and he fell down and I handcuffed him", he said.

He said he searched him and found several bullets in his pockets.

Members of the then Police Mobile Unit were summoned from Gaborone to reinforce his team.

Three days later the third suspect was arrested. Investigations revealed that the three men had escaped from Police custody in Transkei. They had been charged with theft of motor vehicles.

Boiyane Waire retired from the Police Force in 1975 after 23 years of dedicated and loyal service. He retired as Assistant Superintendent and Officer Commanding Diamond Squad in Gaborone. He is married to Botoka Waire and are blessed with four children.

Today, beside being headman of Dilaene ward in Mahalapye, he serves in numerous committees in the village.



Mr Waire points on the scar of the axe wound caused by a criminal



As you step into retirement, may this new chapter bring you the peace and fulfillment you truly deserve. Your years of dedication, hard work and commitment have left a lasting impact and your contributions will not be forgotten.

Retirement is not an end, but a beginning—time to enjoy the moments you once had to postpone, to explore new passions and to embrace life at your own pace. May your days be filled with good health, joy and meaningful experiences.

Thank you for the legacy you leave behind and the example you have set. Wishing you a happy, relaxed and rewarding retirement.



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