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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 modern and proactive law enforcement agency of repute'

The vision aspires a Police service that utilizes advanced practices and technologies to effectively address community needs while maintaining a strong reputation for integrity and professionalism

MISSION

'To deliver innovative and community-centered policing services for a safe and secure Botswana'

It emphasizes commitment to employing creative and effective policing strategies that prioritises collaboration with the community, fostering trust and engagements to enhance public safety and security throughout the Nation.



OUR VALUES (B.A.R.A.T.E)

BOTHO
Emphasizes our dedication to serve with humility and compassion, ensuring that every individual is treated with respect and dignity.

AGILITY
Allows us to adapt swiftly to the ever-changing landscape of public safety

RESILIENCE
Empowers us to overcome challenges with unweavering determination. We hold ourselves accountable to the highest standards, fostering trust and transparency within the community.

ACCOUNTABILITY
We will take responsibility for our actions and decisions whilst upholding the law and ensuring public trust.

TEAM WORK
We will take responsibility for our actions and decisions whilst upholding the law and ensuring public trust.

EXCELLENCE
We will take responsibility for our actions and decisions whilst upholding the law and ensuring public trust.

Inside

6

Fundraising Lunch Rallies Support for GBV One Stop Service Centre





10

Frontline Against the Shadow

12

BPS Destroys 299 Surrendered Firearms in Support of Safer Communities



14

Responsible Ownership Under the Spotlight as Shotgun and Rifles Licenses are Issued

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A UNITED FRONT AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Gender Based Violence (GBV) remains a serious concern in Botswana, demanding sustained action, collective responsibility and stronger support systems to protect victims and survivors. Incidents of rape and defilement highlight the urgent need to strengthen prevention, response and accountability.

Recognising the need for a coordinated and survivor-centred approach, the Botswana Police Service (BPS) has taken a significant step towards combating GBV through the establishment of the GBV One Stop Service Centre. The initiative seeks to address the fragmentation of services that often forces survivors to move between institutions and repeatedly recount their traumatic experiences. By bringing essential services under one roof, the Centre will provide access to protection, medical care, psychosocial support and legal assistance in a safe, confidential and supportive environment.

At a fundraising lunch rally held in Gaborone, the BPS mobilised support from Government, the private sector, development partners and civil society to equip and operationalise the facility. The event, attended by the First Lady of Botswana, Mrs Kaone Tumalano Boko; the First Lady of Mozambique, Her Excellency Gueta Selemane Chapo; and the Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs, Honourable Lesego Chombo, underscored the importance of collective action in the fight against GBV.

The establishment of the One Stop Service Centre builds on the BPS existing efforts, including the establishment of eight Child-Friendly Centres across the country. These initiatives seek to ensure that victims receive coordinated assistance in environments designed to address their specific needs, reducing the burden of navigating multiple institutions and the potential fear or discomfort associated with reporting cases at busy, conventional police stations.

The private sector's contribution towards operationalising the Centre is an important investment in the protection of vulnerable people and the strengthening of community safety. However, the fight against GBV requires continued collaboration among Government institutions, businesses, communities and civil society to ensure that survivors receive the support they need and perpetrators are held accountable.

The GBV One Stop Service Centre represents a practical step towards improving Botswana's response to gender-based violence. Its success will depend on sustained collaboration, adequate resources, effective service delivery and a shared commitment to protecting victims and survivors.

Combating GBV requires more than condemnation; it requires action. Through initiatives such as the One Stop Service Centre, the Botswana Police Service is strengthening the country's response to this persistent challenge. All stakeholders must play their part in ensuring that the initiative translates into meaningful support, restored dignity and safer communities.

LET THE VOICE OF THE CUSTOMER LEAD US

The tagline, "Let the Voice of the Customer Lead Us," reflects the Botswana Police Service's commitment to serving the public with professionalism, accountability and compassion. It emphasizes the importance of listening to the concerns, expectations and experiences of members of the community in order to improve policing services and strengthen public trust.

The tagline also highlights the BPS' dedication to community partnership, ensuring that the needs and safety of the people remain at the centre of all policing efforts.

BRINGING HOPE UNDER ONE ROOF:
A NEW CHAPTER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GBV

By: Insp Macdonald Kengaletswe
Photos by Cst Tshepang Boemo

For someone who has experienced Gender-Based Violence (GBV), seeking help can be an ordeal in itself. Beyond the trauma of the abuse lies the challenge of navigating different institutions, repeating painful experiences and trying to find the protection, care and support needed to begin healing.

Through the recently opened GBV One Stop Service Centre in Gaborone, the Botswana Police Service (BPS) and other stakeholders are championing a vision that prioritises survivors, bringing essential services together so that no victim has to navigate the painful journey of recovery alone.

The GBV One Stop Service Centre is an initiative designed to bring essential services together in one safe, confidential and supportive space.

The vision took a significant step forward recently, when the BPS hosted a fundraising lunch to mobilise resources to equip and operationalise the Centre. The gathering brought together Government leaders, the private sector, development partners and other stakeholders, united by a common purpose: strengthening Botswana's response to GBV.

The occasion was graced by the First Lady of the Republic of Botswana, Mrs Kaone Tumalano Boko, as Guest of Honour, alongside the First Lady of the Republic of Mozambique, Mrs Gueta Selemane Chapo, as an honoured guest.

Addressing the gathering, First Lady Kaone Boko emphasised that the fight against GBV cannot be left to the police alone. It requires a coordinated response involving all relevant stakeholders, with the proposed Centre offering a platform for closer collaboration.

She highlighted the importance of creating a space where victims and survivors can receive assistance with dignity and confidentiality. She also noted that perpetrators seeking to change their behaviour could access support, reinforcing the need to address violence through a comprehensive approach.

First Lady Gueta Chapo reaffirmed Mozambique's solidarity with Botswana, describing GBV as a growing global concern. She disclosed that the Office of the First Lady of Mozambique had donated more than P40,000 towards the initiative and expressed commitment to continued cooperation, including information sharing.



Her Excellency Gueta Selemane Chapo
First Lady of the Republic of Mozambique



Mrs Kaone Tumalano Boko
First Lady of the Republic of Botswana



Commissioner Dinah Marathe
Commissioner of Police



Hon. L
Minister of Yo

Her warning that failure to confront GBV today risks producing more violent generations tomorrow underscored the urgency of collective action, particularly in protecting children.

For Commissioner of Police, Commissioner Dinah Marathe, the One Stop Service Centre represents an important evolution in how the BPS responds to people affected by violence.

While police investigations and bringing offenders to justice remain central to the BPS' mandate, Commissioner Marathe stressed that the needs of survivors extend far beyond the criminal justice process. Some require immediate protection, medical attention, counselling, shelter, legal assistance and social support.

The Centre seeks to bring these interventions together, reducing the burden on survivors and minimising the risk of further trauma.

"Instead of expecting the survivor to move around the system, let us bring the system around the survivor," Commissioner Marathe said, capturing the philosophy underpinning the initiative.

The model builds on the BPS experience with its eight Child-Friendly Centres, which provide safer and more appropriate environments for children to report abuse, undergo interviews and access support and referrals. The proposed One Stop Service Centre takes this approach further by envisioning a more comprehensive, integrated response for people affected by GBV and other forms of violence.

The need remains pressing. Although reported GBV and child-related cases declined from 14,020 in 2024 to 13,555 in 2025, rape increased by five per cent and defilement by 10 per cent over the same period. For the Commissioner, these figures are a reminder that progress must not breed complacency.

Transforming the vision into a fully operational service requires resources. The Centre needs appropriate reception and counselling facilities, child-friendly spaces, furniture, security infrastructure, information and communication technology, case-management systems and specialised equipment.

The fundraising lunch therefore sought more than financial donations. Businesses and other partners were invited to contribute equipment, professional expertise, infrastructure, transport and ongoing operational support, according to their capacity.

Such contributions are an investment in a stronger national protection system, one that recognises the importance of coordinated care, community safety and the dignity of every person seeking help.

For the BPS, the initiative also reflects its service pledge: "Let the Voice of the Customer lead us." In this context, that voice belongs to the survivor seeking safety, the child needing protection and the family searching for help.









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Mrs Kaone Tumalano Boko, First Lady of the Republic of Botswana (right) **and Commissioner Dinah Marathe, Commissioner of Police at Mascom Batanani Walk**

MASCOM BATANANI WALK STRENGTHENS CHILD-FRIENDLY POLICING

By: Cst Lethata Morogolwane
Photos by Insp Macdonald Kengaletswe

The spirit of unity and collective responsibility came alive in Francistown recently as thousands of people took part in the 2026 Mascom Batanani Walk, held under the theme **"Step Up for Child Safety."**

Led by the First Lady of the Republic of Botswana as a Chief Walker, Ms Kaone Tumalano Boko, the annual walk brought together the Botswana Police Service (BPS), the private sector, communities, businesses and other stakeholders in a shared commitment to protecting children from abuse, violence and exploitation.

More than just a fitness and community event, the walk is a powerful platform for advancing child protection and strengthening child-friendly policing. Funds raised through the initiative were to support Botswana Police Service child-protection programmes, particularly the establishment and strengthening of Child-Friendly Centres at police stations.

For the First Lady, the cause spoke directly to her commitment to improving the lives and welfare of children. Through initiatives such as the Mpepu Programme, her Office continues to promote early childhood development and child protection.

Mrs Boko called for stronger families and safer communities, stressing the need for systems that place the dignity, wellbeing and best interests of children at the centre of every intervention. "I encourage the private sector and members of the public to support initiatives aimed at improving the lives of children. Any donation matters and makes a meaningful difference," the First Lady encouraged.

The Commissioner of Police, Commissioner Dinah Marathe, who described the walk as a national declaration that child protection is a shared responsibility.



Hon. Tiroeaone Ntsima
Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship - Francistown East MP



Ms Dzene Makhwade-Seboni
Mascom Chief Executive Officer



Commissioner Marathe highlighted that BPS continue to strengthen its response to crimes against children through specialised investigations, victim-support services, Child-Friendly Centres and community-based prevention programmes.

She noted that children continue to face serious threats, including abuse, neglect, trafficking and online sexual exploitation. In response, the BPS has adopted a Trauma-Informed Policing Model aimed at ensuring that children and GBV victims are protected during their interaction with the police.

The Commissioner expressed appreciation to Mascom Wireless Botswana for choosing child-protection initiatives as the beneficiary of this year's walk.

Mascom Chief Executive Officer, Ms Dzene Makhwade-Seboni, said the Batanani Walk represents unity, compassion and collective action. She said Mascom's contribution towards child-friendly policing would assist in establishing more Child-Friendly Centres, reinforcing the company's commitment to creating safer environments for children.

The event also highlighted the importance of partnerships beyond policing. Giving the vote of thanks, Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship and Francistown East Member of Parliament, Honourable Tiroeaone Ntsima, described the walk as a demonstration of compassion, partnership and responsible corporate citizenship.

He emphasised that protecting children requires the involvement of families, communities, Government, businesses and other stakeholders, adding that investment in child protection is ultimately an investment in Botswana's future.

As the final footsteps of Batanani Walk faded through the streets of Francistown, the message remained clear: protecting children cannot be the responsibility of one institution alone. It requires communities to stand together, families to remain vigilant, businesses to lend their support and institutions to provide safe spaces for every child.



Deputy Commissioner Katlholo Mosimanegape, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Operations *(2nd right)*



Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police, Goitseone Ngono, Director of Gender and Child Protection Branch *(right)*

FRONTLINE AGAINST THE SHADOW



Hon. Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti
Assistant Minister for State President, Defence and Security



Commissioner Dinah Marathe
Commissioner of Police



Mr Phemelo Ramakorwane
Director General, Drug Enforcement Agency

By: Cst Justin Gaogakwe
Photos by Cst Tshepang Boemo

In an era where the rising tide of illicit substances poses a direct threat to public safety and national development, a crucial frontier of resilience has emerged through unified institutional action. Accurate investigation techniques, stealth surveillance, and rigorous legal procedures are no longer just concepts in a textbook for 32 dedicated recruits they are the blueprints for a safer nation.

Inside the quiet corridors of the Botswana Police College in Otse, an air of quiet determination took root as the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) officially launched its intensive Narcotics Investigation and Enforcement Course. Over the next six months, these trainees will undergo an arduous transformation, mentored directly by the experienced instructors of the Botswana Police Service (BPS).

The stakes could not be higher. As global trade networks expand, the threat of narcotics and illicit substance abuse casts a long shadow over local communities. Building an elite force capable of dismantling intricate trafficking syndicates requires more than basic policing; it demands specialized intelligence, forensic accuracy, and flawless execution of the law.

Marking the gravity of the occasion, the Assistant Minister for State President, Defence and Security,



Honourable Maipelo Mophuting-Dikoloti, addressed the attendees to officially declare the program open. In her address, she emphasised that the defense of a country's future relies heavily on the frontline capability of its enforcement agencies. Equipping officers with cutting-edge investigative skills is a critical shield for the nation's youth and public well-being.

Delivering the welcome address, Commissioner of Police, Commissioner Dinah Marathe highlighted the evolving complexity of the illicit drug trade, she emphasised that unified national response to transnational organised crime.

"This training speaks directly to the direction we have set for ourselves under the Botswana Police Service Corporate Development Strategy 2026 – 2030; to build a modern, innovative and professional police service, supported by competent personnel, strong partnerships and the capacity to deliver quality investigations and other policing services," said Commissioner Marathe.

Commissioner Marathe stressed that fighting interconnected criminal syndicates requires moving beyond institutional silos towards full interoperability among the BPS, the DEA, intelligence services, border management and other international bodies such as Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) and INTERPOL.

Delivering his acknowledgements at the ceremony, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Director General Phemelo Ramakorwane expressed profound appreciation for the government's steadfast support. He said despite severe pressures exerted on public revenues, the provision of essential resources reflects a decisive commitment to addressing the root causes of crime. By investing directly in targeted training, the nation is actively mitigating these spillover effects while safeguarding its overall economic health.

"Be available for training, being available remains a function of yourself undertaking all the training instructions with purpose and determination. The final expectation is that you will then be able to contribute effectively to our economy and crime reduction," said Director General.

This pioneering collaboration between the BPS and the DEA represents a unified front against drug-related crime. By pooling institutional knowledge and tactical training, Botswana is forging a highly skilled cohort of agents who will soon step out of the classrooms and onto the frontlines of national security.





RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT AS SHOTGUN AND RIFLES LICENCES ARE ISSUED



Deputy Commissioner Stephen Tsheko
Deputy Commissioner of Police, Support Services



ACP Grace Raditlhalo
Head of Central Arms Registry

By: Justin Gaogakwe
Photos by Insp Macdonald Kengaletswe

The dream of lawful firearm ownership became a reality for some Batswana following the public raffle draw conducted by the Botswana Arms Quota Board at Special Support Group (SSG) in Gaborone recently. However, the celebration was paired with a stern reminder of the profound responsibility that accompanies gun ownership.

Addressing the audience during the event, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Support Services), Deputy Commissioner of Police Stephen Tsheko, emphasised that safety and proper handling must remain paramount for all successful applicants to prevent fatal accidents and keep weapons out of criminal hands.

The demand for personal and property protection in Botswana has surged significantly. Official figures revealed that the number of applicants seeking rifles licences were 30826 and for shotguns were 33150 this year—more than doubling public interest. This year 270 licences, 135 each were awarded to the lucky raffle winners.









Deputy Commissioner Tsheko acknowledged that while shotguns are vital tools for protecting livestock and property, an improperly secured firearm represents a grave danger to society.

Every September, African Union (AU) member states unite behind a single, critical objective: removing illicit small arms and light weapons from our communities. The initiative addresses a pressing security reality across the continent. With thousands of unregistered, forgotten or illegally acquired firearms, circulate within neighborhoods posing continuous risks of armed robbery, violent crime, poaching and domestic instability.

The primary mechanism of Africa Amnesty Month is straightforward yet powerful: unconditional immunity. Throughout the thirty of September, any individual who holds an illegal firearm, ammunition, or light weapon can hand it over to local law enforcement agencies without fear of arrest, interrogation or prosecution.

By creating a safe window for voluntary surrender, Africa Amnesty Month gives citizens an active role in building safer streets, protecting families and ensuring lasting peace across the nation.

BPS DESTROYS 299 SURRENDERED FIREARMS IN SUPPORT OF SAFER COMMUNITIES

By: Sgt Bantshwanetse Keboiretswe
Photos by Sgt Bantshwanetse Keboiretswe



Senior Superintendent Piet Gabotoswe
Senior Staff Officer, Legal Services Branch

Botswana Police Service (BPS) destructed 299 surrendered firearms on 31 July 2026 at Botswana Police College, Otse. It marked another significant step in Botswana's efforts to prevent firearms from finding their way into communities and contributing to crime and insecurity.

The firearms comprised 214 shotguns, 75 rifles and 10 pistols. Their destruction formed part of an annual exercise undertaken by the BPS in accordance with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials.

Similar exercises are conducted annually across the SADC region, providing an important exercise for ensuring that surrendered firearms are permanently removed from circulation.

Speaking during the exercise, Senior Staff Officer, Legal Services Branch, Senior Superintendent Piet Gabotoswe, said all 299 firearms destroyed had been voluntarily surrendered by their licensed owners.

"The destruction of these firearms demonstrates our collective responsibility to ensure that firearms which are no longer required do not find their way back into circulation. We therefore encourage members of the public to continue cooperating with the Police by surrendering firearms that are illegal, obsolete or no longer required," said Senior Superintendent Gabotoswe.

The destruction exercise also comes as the SADC region observes Africa Amnesty Month (AAM) during September.

The initiative encourages members of the public to voluntarily surrender illegal firearms and ammunition in their possession without fear of prosecution for unlawful possession.

Senior Superintendent Gabotoswe appealed to members of the public in possession of illegal

and obsolete firearms to take advantage of the amnesty period and surrender them to the nearest Police Station before the end of September 2026.

"Africa Amnesty Month provides an opportunity for individuals who are in possession of illegal firearms to do the right thing by surrendering them to the Police. We urge members of the public not to wait until such firearms are used in the commission of crime. Surrender them and help us keep our communities safe," he said.

For the Botswana Police Service, the destruction of surrendered firearms is more than the disposal of unwanted weapons. It is part of a broader commitment to public safety, responsible firearm management and the protection of communities.

"The destruction of these firearms demonstrates our collective responsibility to ensure that firearms which are no longer required do not find their way back into circulation. We therefore encourage members of the public to continue cooperating with the Police by surrendering firearms that are illegal, obsolete or no longer required"





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