BusinessBotswana

NEWS LETTER

HIGHLIGHTS | FIRST HALF OF 2026

DRIVING REFORMS, INVESTMENTS AND PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH

Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi
Chief Executive Officer

The first half of 2026 has been marked by purposeful engagement, strategic advocacy and a continued commitment to advancing Botswana's economic transformation agenda.

As the recognised voice of the private sector, Business Botswana has remained at the forefront of policy dialogue, investment promotion, trade facilitation, labour market development and sector growth. Through sustained engagement with government, development partners, investors, industry leaders and international stakeholders, the organisation has championed reforms that improve the ease of doing business, strengthen competitiveness and unlock opportunities for enterprise growth and job creation.

A key theme throughout the period has been the need to accelerate implementation. While Botswana continues to benefit from political stability, sound institutions and strong economic fundamentals, the private sector remains focused on translating policy commitments into tangible outcomes that stimulate investment, productivity and inclusive growth. This review highlights the key engagements, partnerships and achievements that have shaped Business Botswana's work during the first 6 months of 2026 and reflects the organisation's ongoing commitment to building a more competitive, diversified and resilient economy.

Happy Reading!

1. POLICY, ADVOCACY AND EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

Budget Engagement Signals Alignment- With A Call For Delivery

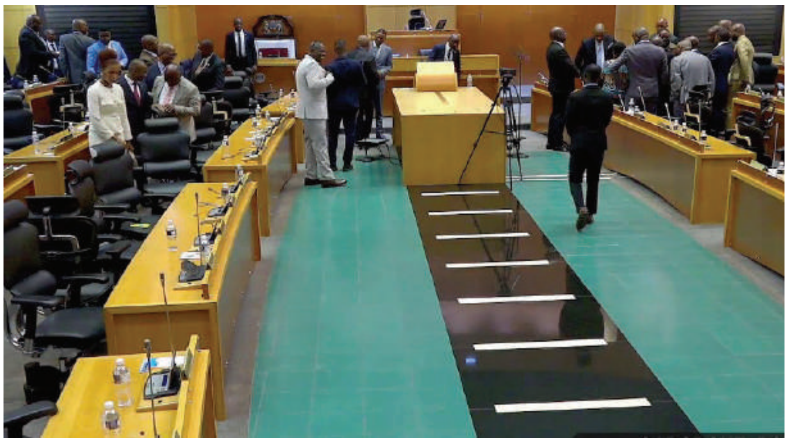
Following the presentation of the 2026/27 National Budget by Vice President and Minister of Finance, Honourable Ndaba Gaolathe, in February, Business Botswana welcomed the overall direction of the fiscal framework.

Through its consultations and submissions, Business Botswana played a direct role in shaping the process, ensuring that the voice of business informed national priorities.

The organisation commended the strong focus on productivity, competitiveness, and private sector-led growth, alongside targeted support for MSMEs through the proposed Fund of Funds.However, Business Botswana was clear, policy direction alone is not enough; execution will define success.

Key concerns remain around delayed government payments, rising operational costs, and regulatory uncertainty, all of which continue to affect business confidence and investment deci-

The organisation also cautioned against increases in taxes, tariffs, and fees in a fragile economic environment, noting that such measures could slow growth and job creation.



Electricity Tariff Hearing Highlights Business Risks

One of Business Botswana's most significant engagements during the quarter was the public hearing on the Botswana Power Corporation's proposed 46% electricity

tariff increase, where the organisation led the private sector response through its Head of Policy and Research, Mr Mpaphi Tsholofelo, who presented an evidence-based submission informed by extensive stakeholder consultations and cost analysis. While acknowledging the need for cost-reflective tariffs to ensure a reliable and sustainable energy supply, Business Botswana cautioned that cautioned that increase of this magnitude would place significant pressure on businesses and proposed a phased, multi-year implementation, beginning with a modest adjustment, to balance energy sector sustainability with economic competitiveness, investment and job creation.

Business Botswana Engages Government On Fuel Price Adjustments

In April 2026, Business Botswana collaborated with the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship (MTE) to explore the impact of fuel price adjustments on businesses and consumers, with a focus on the retail sector.

The engagement was prompted by growing concerns over rising operational costs, compounded by increased importation expenses and exchange rate pressures affecting businesses that rely heavily on imported goods. Business Botswana highlighted the challenges facing retailers and advocated for measures that would help mitigate the impact of escalating costs on business sustainability and consumer prices.

Among the proposals presented were a review of the exchange rate, temporary relief measures on selected levies and subsidies related to goods transportation, and a review of statutory instruments that restrict the importation of certain products and may contribute to higher consumer prices.Business Botswana also reaffirmed the importance of maintaining free market principles while promoting responsible business practices and fair treatment of consumers.

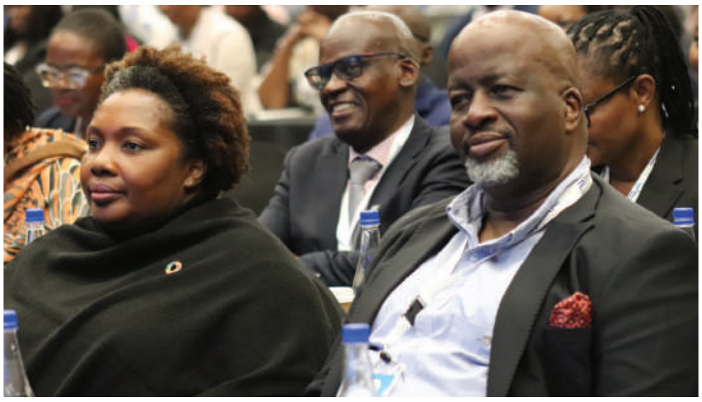
The discussions, led by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Mr Joel Ramaphoi, were constructive, with the government acknowledging the concerns raised and expressing its commitment to continued consultation and collaboration with the private sector. The engagement highlighted the importance of public-private dialogue in identifying practical solutions that support business continuity while protecting consumer interests.

Business Botswana remains committed to advancing evidence-based advocacy and strengthening partnerships with the government to foster a conducive business environment and sustainable economic growth.

Procurement Reforms Support Inclusive Economic Growth

Business Botswana also participated in the National Public Procurement Pitso, where stakeholders examined how procurement can support economic transformation and inclusion.

The discussions highlighted ongoing reforms aimed at improving transparency, efficiency and accountability, including the rollout of a national e-procurement system.



There was also a strong emphasis on increasing participation by MSMEs and citizen-owned businesses, with encouraging progress already recorded in procurement directed toward youth, women and persons with disabilities.

Business Botswana supports these reforms and continues to advocate for a procurement system that drives both economic growth and inclusive development.

Development Partners Roundtable Calls For Urgent Reforms To Unlock Private Sector Growth

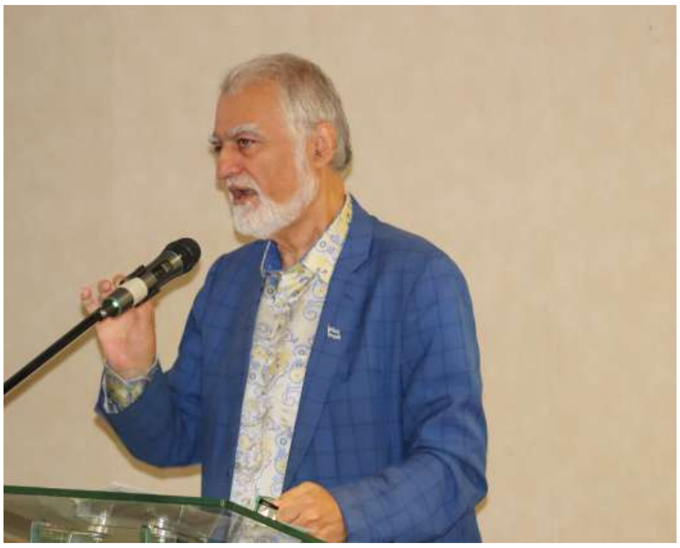
Business Botswana joined government, development partners, academia, and industry leaders at the Development Partners Roundtable held under the ***theme "Boosting Private Sector Development in Botswana: Challenges, Opportunities, and the Path to a Thriving Enterprise Ecosystem."***

The dialogue highlighted Botswana's strong economic fundamentals, including political stability, an investment-grade credit rating, low corruption levels and free movement of capital. However, participants noted that private sector growth continues to lag national aspirations due to regulatory bottlenecks, skills shortages, limited SME financing and declining foreign direct investment (FDI).

Key discussions focused on:

- The need to improve the ease of doing business through faster
- licensing, permit approvals and regulatory reforms.
- Addressing skills shortages through more efficient work permit processes
- while strengthening local capacity development.
- Expanding access to finance for SMEs and startups through risk-based
- funding models and reduced red tape.
- Promoting export-led growth and economic diversification beyond diamonds.
- Strengthening implementation, accountability, and public-private
- collaboration to accelerate reforms.

Regional and international case studies from Rwanda, Mauritius, Namibia, Kenya, Morocco, Vietnam and China demonstrated how disciplined implementation, investor-friendly policies, and targeted sector development have successfully driven economic transformation.Participants identified key sectors with high growth potential, including diamond jewellery, tourism, meat and leather value chains, renewable energy, logistics, mining services and digital industries.



A recurring message throughout the roundtable was that Botswana's challenge is not a lack of strategies or policies, but the need for effective implementation, stronger accountability and a more enabling environment for businesses The session concluded with a commitment to continue stakeholder engagements and develop actionable reform pathways to support.Botswana's economic transformation agenda under Vision 2036, NDP 12 and the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP).

CEO Leads Private Sector Voice In Monetary Policy Dialogue

Business Botswana also took part in the launch of the Bank of Botswana Monetary Policy Statement, where policymakers, financial institutions and business leaders engaged on the state of the economy.

Leading the private sector voice, CEO Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi highlighted the real pressures facing businesses, particularly the rising cost of borrowing. Higher interest rates, she noted, are limiting expansion, delaying investment, and constraining job creation.

She further raised structural concerns within the economy, including the limited number of exporters, which may reduce the effectiveness of certain policy measures aimed at strengthening foreign exchange inflows. Through this platform, Business Botswana called for stronger alignment between policy decisions and business realities, including the revival of structured public–private dialogue platforms to support coordinated economic management.

Business Botswana Advocates For Productivity-Driven Economic Growth

Business Botswana's Chief Executive Officer, Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi, participated as a panellist during the World Productivity Day commemoration hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, where she highlighted key barriers affecting business growth and competitiveness in Botswana.

She noted that while several progressive policies have been introduced, implementation remains a significant challenge, particularly the operationalisation of the Economic Inclusion Act and its supporting regulations. She also called for greater clarity on the definition and support of targeted citizen enterprises to ensure policy translates into meaningful economic outcomes.

Ms. Mbaakanyi further highlighted transport system disruptions and delays in work permit processing as persistent constraints on business operations, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises. She stressed that improving productivity requires safe and inclusive workplaces, investment in skills development, innovation and a more efficient workforce.

She reaffirmed Business Botswana's commitment to advocating for policy reforms and an enabling business environment that supports productivity, private sector growth and sustainable economic development.

Rural Development Agenda Creates Opportunities For Inclusive Growth

Business Botswana has welcomed the government's renewed focus on transforming rural areas into centres of economic activity, entrepreneurship and job creation through the work of the Rural Development Council (RDC).

Addressing an RDC meeting in Gaborone, Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe, called for a shift from social welfare dependency to productive economic empowerment, positioning villages as key drivers of Botswana's economic transformation under National Development Plan 12 and the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP).

The Vice President emphasised the importance of digitalisation, commercial agriculture and high-value crop production in unlocking rural economic potential and strengthening Botswana's export competitiveness.

As a member of the RDC, Business Botswana continues to champion private sector-led development through its CEO, Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi, who advocates for policies, partnerships and investments that support enterprise growth and greater participation of rural communities in the mainstream economy.

The organisation views the rural development agenda as a critical opportunity to unlock investment, stimulate local enterprise, create sustainable jobs and build resilient rural economies that contribute meaningfully to national growth and prosperity.

2. PUBLIC–PRIVATE DIALOGUE AND SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

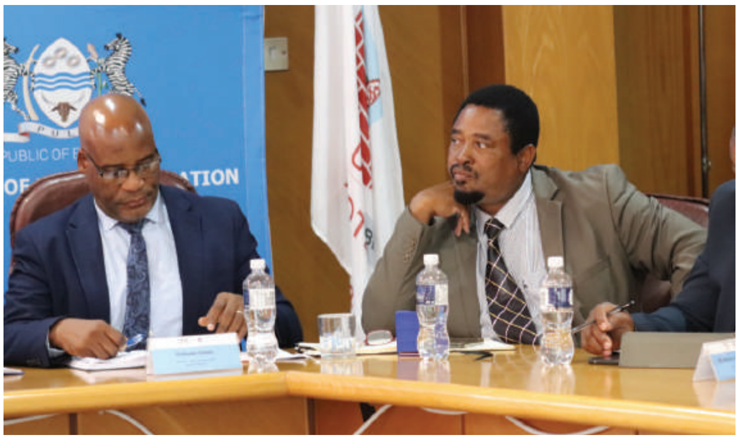
Business Botswana President Co-Chairs Presidential Roundtable

Business Botswana President, Mr Neo Nwako co-chaired a Presidential Roundtable bringing together government leaders, the private sector and key stakeholders to advance Botswana’s economic transformation agenda. The engagement reaffirmed the importance of strong public–private collaboration to accelerate economic diversification, improve the business environment and attract investment, with discussions focusing on practical measures to enhance competitiveness, support enterprise growth and create sustainable employment. Mr. Nwako emphasised the need for effective implementation of reforms and sustained dialogue to address barriers to growth, reinforcing a shared commitment to an enabling environment for private sector-led development and Botswana’s long-term economic aspirations.The roundtable further reaffirmed the shared commitment to creating an enabling environment that supports private sector-led development and advances Botswana's long-term economic aspirations.

Higher Education Sector

Business Botswana convened the Higher Education SLCC, co-chaired by Honourable Prince Maele, Minister of Higher Education and Mr Golekanye Setume, Education Sector Chairperson. The engagement brought together a broad ecosystem of stakeholders, including the ICT sector, Qualifications Authority (BQA), Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) and higher education institutions. This cross-sector platform reinforced the importance of aligning education with labour market demands and future skills needs.

Mr. Setume shared challenges affecting the sector, including delayed tuition payments, high and duplicated accreditation costs, and financial sustainability pressures on institutions. Importantly, participating sectors reiterated their commitment to supporting curriculum development, data sharing, and skills alignment, ensuring that graduates are better prepared for the evolving needs of the economy. Hon Maele acknowledged these challenges and committed to continued engagement, including institutional visits and regular consultations.



Infrastructure and Transport Sector

Business Botswana also convened the Infrastructure and Transport SLCC, co-chaired by Honourable Noah Salakae, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, and Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi, CEO of Business Botswana. The meeting was intentionally multi-sectoral, with participation from Engineering, Built Environment and Construction, Transport and logistics, as well as ICT sector chairpersons.

This cross-sector engagement ensured that the full infrastructure value chain was represented, enabling more practical and coordinated solutions. Discussions focused on development models, project allocation systems, Public-Private Partnerships, facilities management, and legislative reform.

The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to creating an enabling environment for private sector participation, while Business Botswana reaffirmed its readiness to partner in delivering infrastructure-led growth.

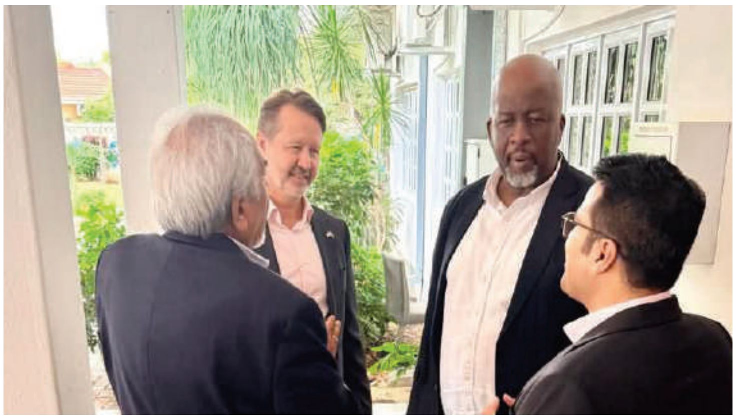
Information, Communication And Techology (ICT) Sector

Business Botswana ICT Sector Chairperson, Mr Mothusi Tladi co-chaired the ICT Sector High Level Consultative Council (HLCC) meeting with the Minister of Communications and Innovation, Hon. David Tshere, bringing together public and private sector stakeholders to advance Botswana's digital transformation. The meeting reviewed progress on the Cybersecurity Act, National Artificial Intelligence Policy, Digital Services Authority, expansion of online government services and the Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub (BDIH) Strategy, while identifying opportunities to strengthen digital infrastructure, innovation and public-private collaboration to position Botswana as a regional digital hub.

3. TRADE, INVESTMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

American Business Council Hosts Business Botswana For Strategic Business Breakfast

The American Business Council (ABC) hosted Business Botswana for a Business Breakfast engagement aimed at strengthening institutional relationships and exploring opportunities for strategic collaboration. The engagement provided a valuable platform for both organisations to exchange perspectives on the evolving business landscape and identify areas of mutual interest that can contribute to private sector growth and economic development.



Discussions focused on fostering stronger ties between Business Botswana and the American Business Council, promoting trade and investment linkages and creating structured avenues for partnership that support bilateral business development.As organisations committed to advancing the interests of the private sector, both parties recognised the importance of collaboration in addressing common challenges, unlocking new opportunities and enhancing the competitiveness of businesses operating within Botswana and across international markets.The meeting further highlighted the role of strategic partnerships in facilitating knowledge sharing, investment promotion, market access and policy dialogue that supports a conducive business environment.

Business Botswana values such engagements as they contribute to building sustainable networks that drive economic progress, strengthen international business relations, and create opportunities for enterprise growth. The organisation looks forward to continued dialogue with the American Business Council and its members, as well as the development of initiatives that will advance shared economic objectives and deepen cross-border cooperation.

Business Botswana Advocates For Stronger Private Sector Collaboration At Botswana-Rwanda Business Forum

Business Botswana (BB) participated in the Botswana–Rwanda Business Forum, a component of the Bi-National Commission that took place in Gaborone. During the engagement, the CEO, Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi, delivered a presentation on the mandate of Business Botswana, highlighting the organisation's role as the voice of business and its commitment to advocating for private sector growth.

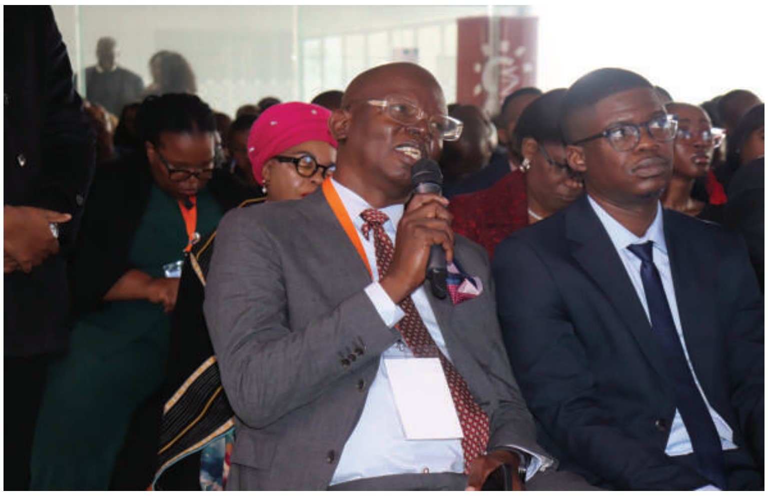
Business Botswana Calls For Stronger Botswana-South Africa Partnerships

Business Botswana CEO, Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi, addressed the Botswana–South Africa Business Forum, calling for stronger regional partnerships to drive trade, investment and economic growth.Business Botswana CEO, Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi, addressed the Botswana–South Africa Business Forum, calling for stronger regional partnerships to drive trade, investment and economic growth.

She highlighted the need for Botswana and South Africa to work together in building regional value chains in key sectors, including manufacturing, agro-processing, mineral beneficiation and green energy, whilst also improving trade logistics and access to financing opportunities. Business Botswana President, Mr Neo Nwako, delivered the key outcomes of the Forum during the 6th Bi-National Commission led by the two Heads of State. The outcomes focused on strengthening regional collaboration, unlocking investment opportunities, supporting SMEs and women-owned businesses and promoting private sector-led industrialisation and sustainable economic growth.

Botswana and South Africa also signed a number of agreements aimed at strengthening cooperation in the transport, water, energy and correctional services sectors. The engagements focused on strengthening business linkages, trade and knowledge exchange between Botswana and Rwanda. Botswana private sector companies participated in B2B meetings organised by the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC).

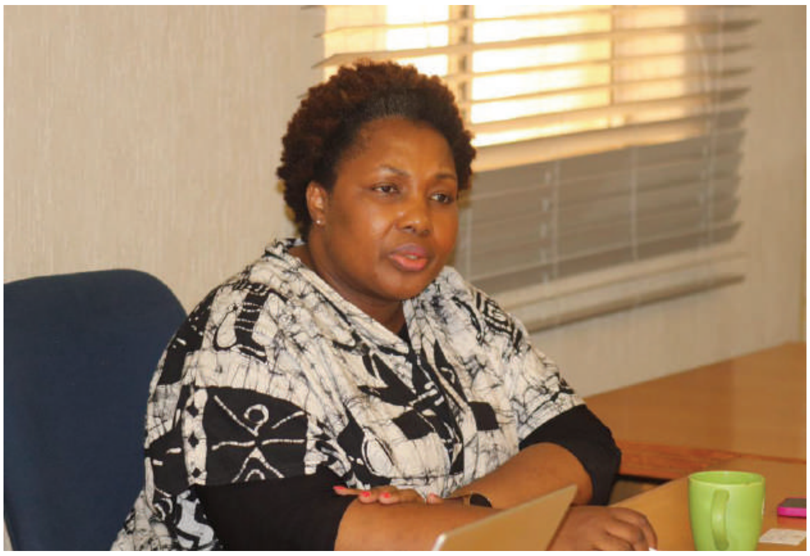
Key outcomes included: Opportunities summary for Botswana companies, Trade challenges mitigation plans, etc. There was also a resolution to operationalise the MoU between Business Botswana and the Rwanda Private Sector Federation (RPSF), for immediate quick wins and to amend it accordingly to reflect the order of the day.



Strengthening Economic Cooperation Between Botswana And Algeria

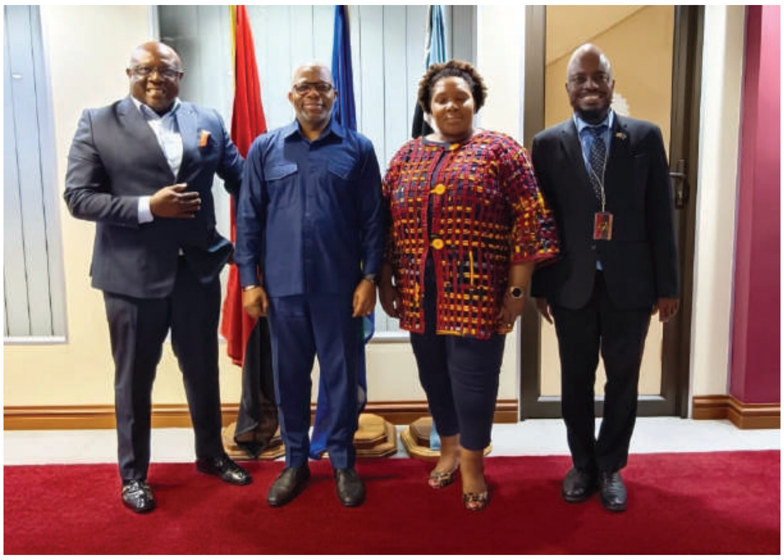
Business Botswana CEO Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi hosted the former Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to Botswana, Mr. Abdelmalek Tigharghar, for discussions aimed at strengthening economic cooperation between the 2 countries.

The engagement explored opportunities to expand bilateral trade, promote investment, encourage business-to-business collaboration and increase participation in trade and investment events. Both parties reaffirmed their shared commitment to fostering stronger commercial ties and facilitating knowledge exchange that supports private sector growth in Botswana and Algeria.



As part of these efforts, Business Botswana and the Algerian Embassy are progressing discussions towards the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a framework for deeper collaboration, promote trade and investment and create new opportunities for businesses in both countries.

Business Botswana Strengthens Trade Relations with Angola



Following a courtesy call by the Embassy of Angola to Business Botswana, the Angolan Embassy hosted a business breakfast attended by Business Botswana CEO Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi and Agriculture Sector Chairperson Mr Boiki Tema. The engagement explored opportunities to strengthen bilateral trade and investment and foster business-to-business partnerships. The meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment of both parties to advancing economic cooperation and creating new opportunities for businesses in Botswana and Angola.

Business Botswana Engages MOESNA On Regional Trade And Maritime Connectivity

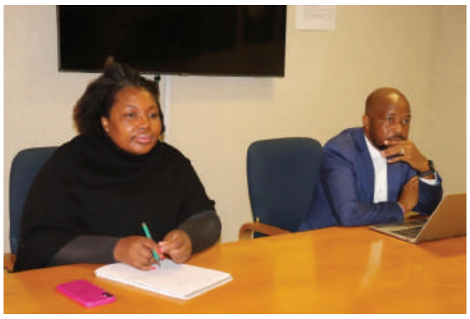
A Business Botswana delegation led by Vice President South, Mr Odirile Merafhe, met with the Secretary General of the Maritime Organisation for Eastern, Southern and Northern Africa (MOESNA), Mr Kassim Mpaata, to discuss strengthening regional maritime connectivity and trade facilitation.

The engagement, attended by key transport and logistics industry stakeholders, focused on developing robust regional shipping routes, improving logistics efficiency and leveraging regional trade corridors to enhance competitiveness for land-linked countries such as Botswana. Mr Mpaata emphasised the importance of expanding intra-African maritime trade and highlighted the critical role that Business Botswana can play in advancing private sector-led trade facilitation. He also expressed appreciation to the Government of Botswana for its continued support of MOESNA programmes.

Business Botswana reaffirmed its commitment to collaborating with MOESNA and regional partners to unlock new trade opportunities and support regional economic integration through improved maritime and logistics connectivity.

Exploring Partnership Opportunities With The Shandong Province Business Delegation

The Presidential Envoy and Special Advisor for the Asia Pacific, Mr. Miles Nan, led a delegation from Shandong Province on a courtesy call to Business Botswana to explore emerging business and partnership opportunities. Discussions focused on sectors such as geotechnical services, construction and engineering, agriculture and health, particularly in the plant and equipment manufacturing space.



The parties also discussed the arrangement of a B2B forum to promote cross-border trade and strengthen collaboration for the benefit of businesses in both Botswana and China. In addition, discussions were held on strengthening the BB China Office to further support trade and investment linkages.

Botswana and Mauritius Strengthen ICT and Digital Investment Cooperation

Business Botswana ICT Sector Chairperson Mr Mothusi Tladi participated in the Botswana–Mauritius Business Forum hosted by BITC and the Economic Development Board of Mauritius, which focused on strengthening digital trade and investment cooperation. The engagement explored opportunities in ICT-enabled sectors such as Business Process Outsourcing, data services and digital innovation, with Mauritius positioning itself as a regional digital hub. Mr. Tladi highlighted Botswana's ICT sector as a key driver of national transformation under Vision 2036 and the National ICT Roadmap 2030, while noting challenges such as youth unemployment and limited large-scale tech investment. The forum reaffirmed the importance of regional partnerships in advancing digital transformation and positioning Botswana as a competitive gateway for ICT investment under the AfCFTA.

Driving Regional Integration Through Trade, Investment And Partnership

The Botswana–Zambia Business Forum set the tone for stronger regional integration and enhanced bilateral cooperation aimed at facilitating trade, investment, and ease of doing business between the two countries. Delivering the keynote address, Mr. Jito Kayumba, Special Advisor on Finance and Investment to the President of the Republic of Zambia, His Excellency Hakainde Hichilema, highlighted that the Botswana and Zambia Bi-National Commission is expected to further strengthen trade, partnerships and the movement of citizens between the two nations.

He also underscored opportunities for increased investment in mining, tourism, wholesale and retail trade, as well as ongoing efforts to enhance regional trade corridors through the Kazungula Bridge Authority. Speaking during the forum, Mr Neo Nwako, President of Business Botswana, emphasised the need for Africa to intentionally grow intra-African trade and strengthen economic cooperation within the continent.

Her Excellency, Pamela Melela Chisanga, Zambia High Commission to Botswana, further encouraged businesses to openly share trade impediments to enable stronger collaboration and policy facilitation. Various speakers unbundled issues around opening up sustainable trade towards dignified jobs for Batswana and Zambians. These included: the CEO of Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE), Aupa Monyatsi, the BITC Director Business Services North, Moemedi Mokgosi, a long-standing Business Botswana member and Francistown-based entrepreneur, Dr Kgosidialwa Mompati of Tati River Clinics, Maiba Samunzala of SPEDU, Zambia Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), Cornwell Muleya and BECI and Stanbic representatives. In closing, the CEO of BB Tumi Mbaakanyi committed that a system would be put in place so that forum engagements translate into measurable trade flows, partnerships as well as a robust ecosystem.

Strengthening Regional Partnerships For Sustainable Economic Growth

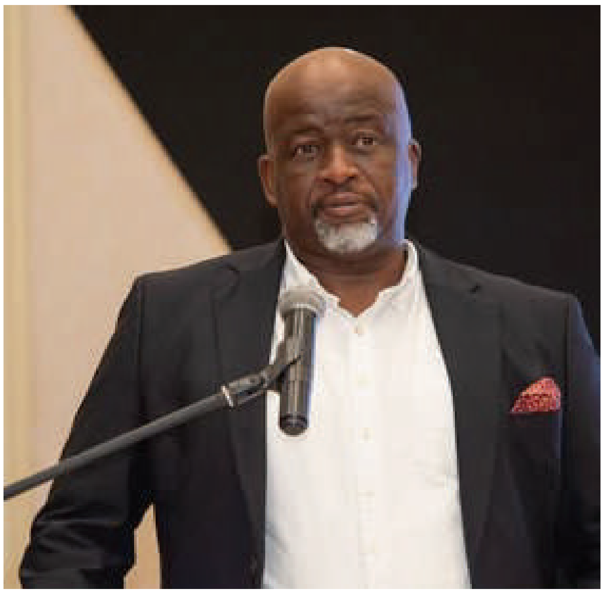
Business Botswana President Mr. Neo Nwako addressed the Botswana–Lesotho Business Forum, hosted by the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) in partnership with the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), where he highlighted the critical role of the private sector in driving investment, innovation, job creation and economic diversification.

He emphasised that sustainable economic growth depends on an enabling business environment, stronger regional integration and enhanced collaboration between Botswana and Lesotho. Business Botswana Transport Sector Chairperson Mr. Matthew Wiggett also participated as a panellist, contributing to discussions on building resilient cross-border value chains and strengthening regional competitiveness.

4. AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIALISATION AND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

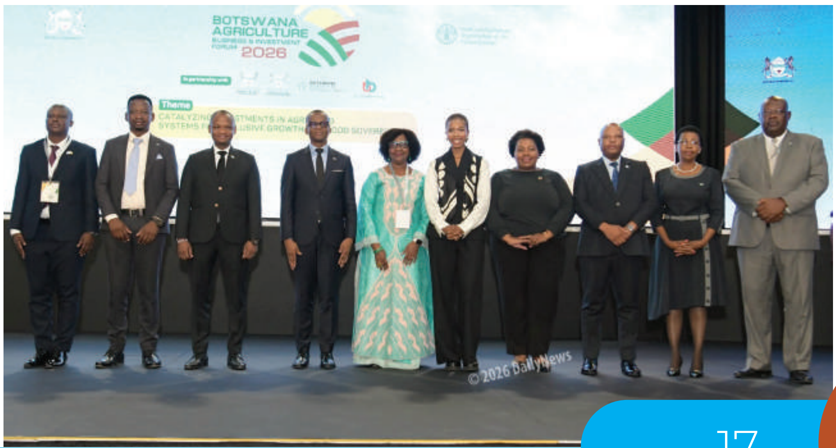
Highlevel Private Sector Forum On The AfCFTA

Business Botswana, in partnership with SADC and GIZ, hosted a High-Level Private Sector Forum on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The engagement brought together key stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to strengthen understanding of the AfCFTA and its significance in creating a single African market of more than 1.3 billion people, with a combined GDP estimated at USD 3.4 trillion. The forum also highlighted the role of the AfCFTA in building upon existing Regional Economic Community frameworks to advance continental integration. Participants explored practical strategies for positioning Botswana's private sector to take advantage of emerging regional and continental trade opportunities, reinforcing the importance of private sector participation in shaping Africa's economic future.



Inaugural Agriculture Business & Investment Forum Advances Investment Agenda

Business Botswana joined government, development partners, investors, financial institutions, and agri-business leaders at the inaugural Botswana Agriculture Business & Investment Forum held under the theme *"Catalysing Investments in Agri-Food Systems for Inclusive Growth and Food Sovereignty."*



The 2-day forum focused on identifying actionable and bankable solutions to transform Botswana's agricultural sector into a modern, competitive, and investment-driven industry. Discussions centred on increasing agriculture's contribution to GDP, strengthening agricultural value chains, reducing import dependency, and advancing food sovereignty through climate-resilient and commercially viable farming systems. Addressing delegates, Business Botswana reaffirmed its commitment to supporting private sector participation across the agricultural value chain, including production, agro-processing, logistics, storage, distribution and agri-technology. The organisation emphasised the need for stronger public-private collaboration, improved access to finance, efficient regulatory processes and policies that enable enterprise growth.

Business Botswana further committed to supporting farmer and agribusiness capacity development, promoting innovation and technology adoption, facilitating market access and advocating for investment-friendly reforms to unlock the sector's full potential. The forum concluded with a shared commitment among stakeholders to strengthen partnerships, mobilise investment, and accelerate implementation of initiatives that will create jobs, empower youth and women, expand exports, and position agriculture as a key driver of Botswana's economic diversification and sustainable growth.

Private Sector Engagement in Botswana’s Agricultural Financing Transformation

Business Botswana Agriculture Sector Chairperson, Mr Boiki Tema participated in the validation of Botswana’s first National Agricultural Financing Strategy, led by the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The strategy aims to unlock investment, strengthen agricultural value chains and shift the sector towards productivity-driven and market-oriented financing models that promote value addition, agro-processing, job creation and food security. Speaking at the workshop, the Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Edwin G Dikoloti, emphasised the need for innovative financing approaches to support agricultural transformation, while FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for Southern Africa, Mr Patrice Talla highlighted the strategy's focus on blended finance, risk-sharing mechanisms and increased private sector participation to enhance competitiveness and sustainable growth in the agrifood sector.

Business Botswana Champions Industrial Growth at Local Manufacturing Summit

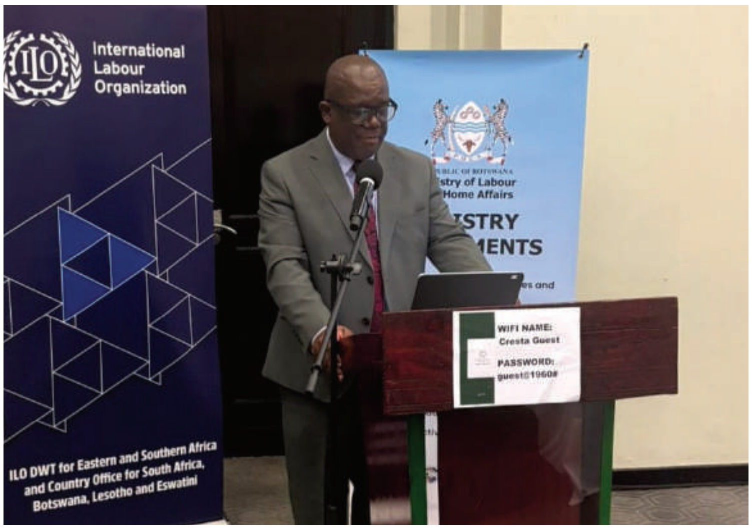
Botswana Chamber of Mines, in partnership with Business Botswana , hosted the Local Manufacturing Summit under the theme ***"Shaping the Future of Botswana's Manufacturing Sector; Exploring Export Markets."*** Delivering remarks, Manufacturing Sector Chairperson, Ms Tecla Evans-Modise emphasised the urgent need to move from resource dependence to value addition and industrialisation, noting that Botswana's future growth depends on what is produced, innovated and exported.

She highlighted manufacturing as a key driver of job creation, competitiveness and economic transformation, while underscoring the importance of strengthening linkages between mining and manufacturing to retain value within the economy and support SME participation in value chains. Ms Evans-Modise further called for stronger collaboration between government and the private sector to address challenges such as high production costs, limited access to finance, infrastructure constraints and skills gaps, and urged that the summit produce practical, actionable outcomes toaccelerate Botswana's industrial development agenda.

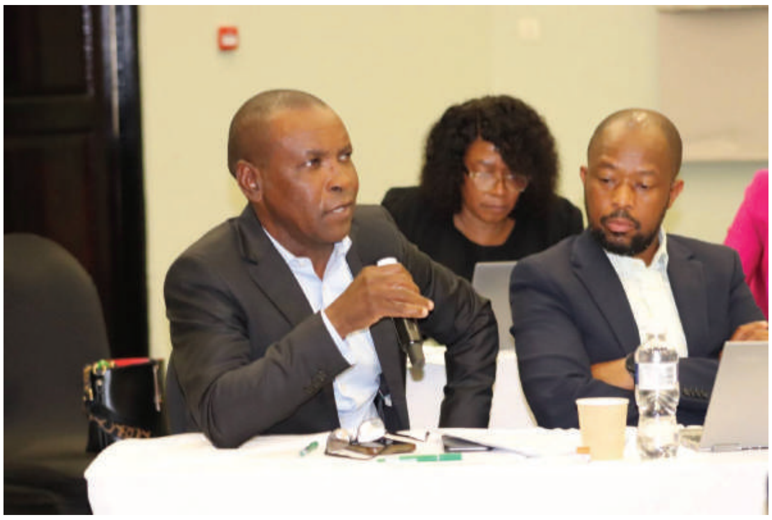
5. LABOUR, WORKPLACE STANDARDS AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Business Botswana Supports Inclusive Labour Standard and worksplace safety

Business Botswana CEO, Tumi Mbaakanyi, recently delivered welcome remarks at the Tripartite Knowledge Sharing Workshop organised by the International Labour Organisation(ILO). Held in line with Convention 144, the workshop brought together stakeholders from across sectors to deliberate on International Labour Standards identified for prioritised ratification, as well as the effective operationalisation of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) roadmap.



In her remarks, Ms Mbaakanyi reaffirmed Business Botswana's commitment to promoting fair labour practices, workplace safety and human rights-driven governance. The private sector is already practising responsible business using ESG principles and there are continuous efforts to encourage more. She also highlighted the organisation's ongoing work with relevant stakeholders to address challenges faced by truck drivers at border posts, as part of its advocacy efforts for members.



An evidence-based survey will be carried out as soon as possible to unravel the issue which does not only work against the decent work principle but is also an opportunity cost on trade income. She also shared that after the workshop, relevant engagements would be held with the private sector on the proposed ratifications to ensure practical and reasonable alignment on same.

The Director of the ILO Country Office for South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini, Mr. Alexio Musindo, reaffirmed the Organisation's commitment to supporting Botswana's tripartite partners in strengthening social dialogue, advancing decent work and implementing international labour standards that promote inclusive and productive workplaces.

Business Botswana Champions Psychosocial Wellbeing In The Workplace

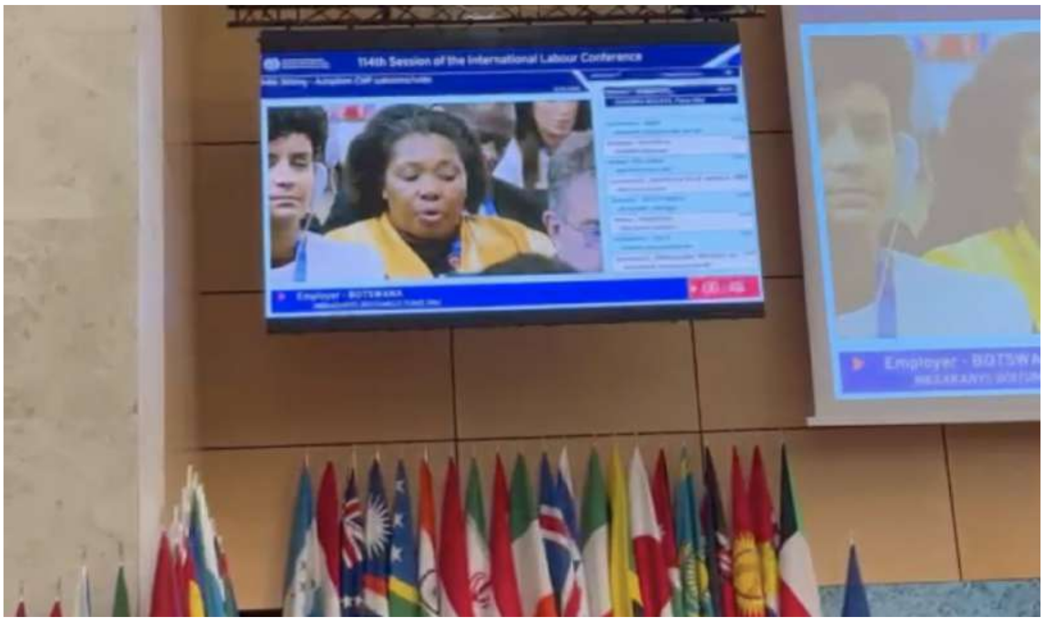
Business Botswana joined the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs and other social partners in Kasane to commemorate World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2026 under the theme, *"Let's Ensure a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment."* Speaking on behalf of Business Botswana, Kasane Business Council Chairperson, Mr David Sebodile, highlighted the growing importance of addressing psychosocial risks in the workplace, noting that employee well-being is critical to productivity, innovation, and sustainable business growth.

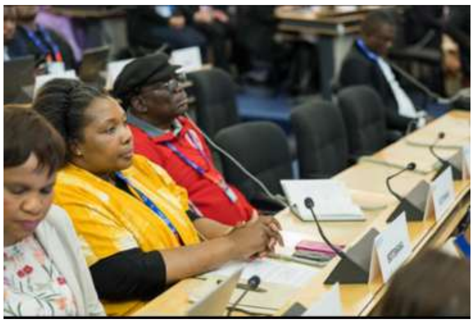
Speaking on behalf of Business Botswana, Kasane Business Council Chairperson, Mr David Sebodile, highlighted the growing importance of addressing psychosocial risks in the workplace, noting that employee well-being is critical to productivity, innovation, and sustainable business growth.He emphasised that while workplace safety has traditionally focused on physical hazards, employers must also address issues such as stress, burnout, workplace conflict, excessive workloads, harassment, and mental health challenges. He stressed that healthy workplaces are not only a moral responsibility but also a business imperative.

Mr Sebodile further outlined Business Botswana's ongoing efforts to promote fair labour practices, strengthen occupational safety and health frameworks, and support the development of Botswana's National Occupational Safety and Health Policy. He reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to working with government and organised labour to foster safe, healthy, and productive workplaces.The commemoration concluded with a Social Partners Round Table and Pledge Signing Ceremony, reinforcing a collective commitment to creating people-centred workplaces that prioritise employee wellbeing and organisational resilience.

Business Botswana Strengthens Private Sector Voice at the International Labour Conference

Business Botswana CEO Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi, accompanied by the Labour and Home Affairs High Level Consultative Council (HLCC) Coordinator, Ms. Vanish Madondo, participated in the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva, Switzerland. Representing the private sector in her capacity as Chairperson of the SADC Private Sector Forum (SPSF), Ms Mbaakanyi reaffirmed the private sector's commitment to the proposed ILO Convention on the Platform Economy. She emphasised that its implementation should strike a balance between protecting workers' rights and fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and job creation, ensuring that the platform economy remains a catalyst for inclusive and sustainable economic growth.





Regional Employers Strengthen Collaboration for Decent Work and Labour Mobility

Business Botswana CEO Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi, in her capacity as Chairperson of the SADC Private Sector Forum (SPSF), participated in an International Labour Organisation (ILO) regional experience-sharing workshop that brought together employer representatives from Eastern and Southern Africa. The workshop strengthened the capacity of employer organisations through the exchange of best practices in governance, social dialogue and regional cooperation, while promoting stronger

advocacy, effective labour migration systems and regional integration. Business Botswana's participation reaffirmed its commitment to advancing decent work, strengthening employer representation and fostering collaborative solutions that support sustainable economic growth across the SADC region.

6. EVENTS AND STRATEGIC PLATFORMS

Business Botswana CEO Inspires Emerging Women Leaders at Mascom WConnect

Business Botswana CEO Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi participated as a panellist at Mascom WConnect, a women's empowerment initiative hosted by Mascom to commemorate International Women's Day 2026. Contributing to a discussion on leadership, mentorship and career growth, she encouraged emerging leaders to embrace opportunities with confidence, invest in continuous learning and build strong networks that create access to leadership and decision-making spaces. She also underscored the importance of mentorship, sponsorship and cross-sector collaboration in advancing women's leadership and fostering inclusive economic development.

Northern Trade Fair Champions Value Chain Development and Private Sector Growth

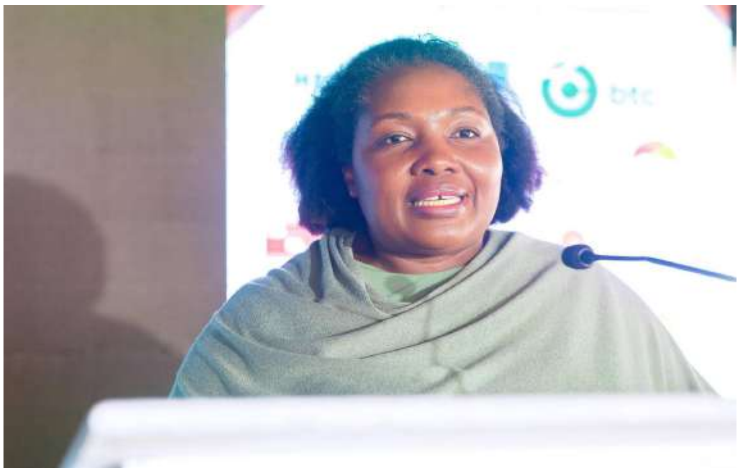
The 30th Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair (BBNTF) concluded successfully in Francistown, reaffirming its position as one of Botswana's premier platforms for trade promotion, investment attraction, enterprise development and regional collaboration. Held under the theme *"Value Chain Revolution: From Local Resources to Global Markets,"* the milestone event brought together more than 90 exhibitors from across Botswana and the region, including participants from Zimbabwe and Tanzania.

The fair served as a dynamic platform for businesses, policymakers, investors and development partners to explore opportunities for value addition, industrialisation and economic diversification.Throughout the exhibition and accompanying business engagements, a strong message emerged: Botswana's economic future depends on building competitive value chains, expanding local production and increasing participation in regional and global markets.

Speaking during the event, Business Botswana President, Mr. Neo Nwako, emphasised the urgent need to accelerate economic diversification through local value addition. "Economic diversification is no longer optional; it is an urgent national priority. We can no longer afford to allow our raw materials to leave the country unprocessed," he said.

The fair also highlighted Francistown's strategic role as a regional trade and investment hub. Francistown Local Economic Development Chairperson, Honourable Mairosi Muzawazi, reaffirmed the city's commitment to creating an enabling environment for business growth through improved infrastructure, investment facilitation and private sector support.

Addressing delegates, Honourable Moeti Caesar Mohwasa, Minister for State President, Defence and Security, highlighted the critical role of the private sector in driving industrialisation and value chain development. He stressed that meaningful economic transformation requires investment, innovation and strong partnerships between government and business.



Business Botswana CEO, Ms. Tumi Mbaakanyi, emphasised the importance of translating dialogue into action, noting that sustainable growth will be driven by stronger business linkages, practical partnerships and integrated value chains that create measurable economic impact. Beyond the exhibition, the Trade Fair hosted a series of high-level business forums, networking golf challenge, business -to-business engagements and policy discussions focused on trade, investment, industrialisation, regional integration and enterprise development. These engagements created opportunities for businesses to forge partnerships, access new markets and explore investment opportunities across priority sectors. As Business Botswana celebrates 3 decades of the Northern Trade Fair, the event continues to evolve beyond an exhibition platform into a catalyst for economic transformation, fostering collaboration between government, the private sector and development partners while advancing Botswana's vision for a diversified, competitive and export-driven economy.

Business Botswana Advances Botswana's Air Connectivity At Aviadev Africa 2026

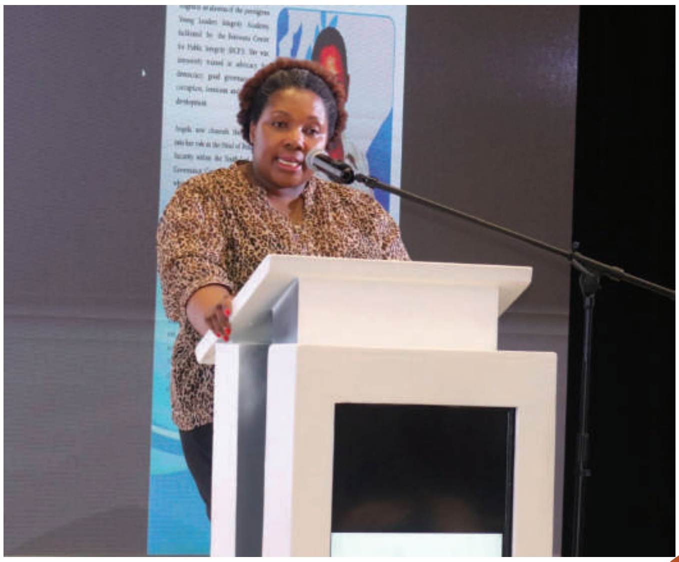
Botswana hosted the 10th edition of AviaDev Africa 2026, Africa's premier aviation route development conference, bringing together more than 560 delegates from over 110 airlines, airports, tourism authorities, government institutions and industry stakeholders. The conference served as a strategic platform to advance air connectivity, trade, tourism, investment and regional integration across the continent.

As a strategic partner, Business Botswana supported the event, recognising aviation as a key driver of economic growth and investment. Through its Transport Sector, led by Mr. Matthew Wiggett, the organisation engaged airline executives, policymakers and industry leaders to advocate for an enabling aviation environment, improved air connectivity and reforms that enhance Botswana's competitiveness as a regional aviation hub.

Business Botswana also advanced the Botswana Air Access Initiative through engagements with Kenya Airways, Astral Aviation, Fastjet Zimbabwe, Airlink, Discover Airlines and Proflight Zambia. Building on discussions initiated at AviaDev Africa 2025, the meetings explored opportunities to expand airline operations within and into Botswana, thereby supporting greater trade, tourism and investment. Officially opening the conference, His Honour the Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr. Ndaba N. Gaolathe, emphasised that stronger connectivity is fundamental to unlocking trade, investment and shared prosperity across the continent.

Business Botswana remains committed to fostering partnerships and championing initiatives that strengthen Botswana's aviation sector, improve regional connectivity and position the country as a preferred destination for business and investment.

Business Botswana and DCEC to Formalise Strategic Partnership Through MoU



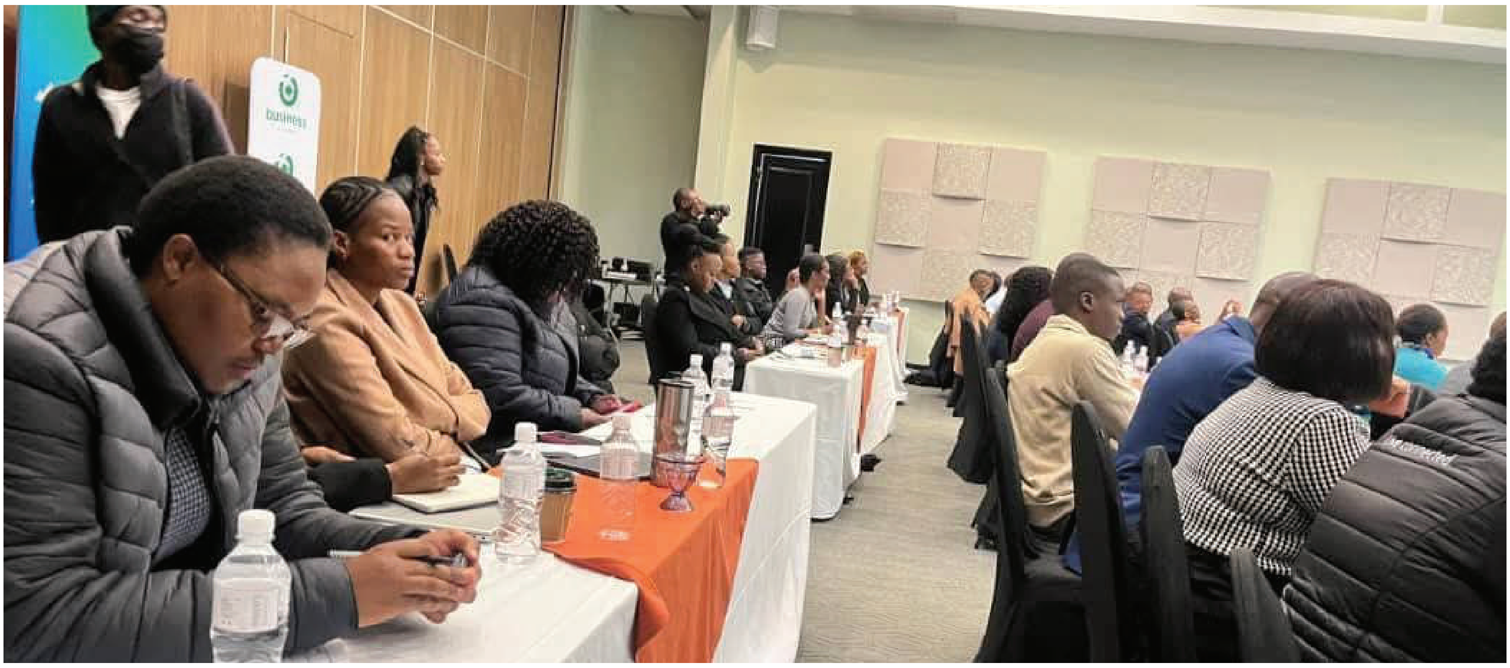
Business Botswana participated in the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) Anti-Corruption Conference, where Chief Executive Officer Ms. Tumi Mbaakanyi delivered a presentation on promoting ethical business practices and partnership integrity. The presentation underscored the economic impact of corruption, the importance of strengthening governance and ethical business conduct, and the need to modernise the Private Sector Code of Conduct to address emerging challenges such as digital commerce, global supply chains, ESG requirements, and sophisticated financial crimes.

Business Botswana reaffirmed its commitment to fostering transparency, accountability, and ethical procurement within the private sector while advocating for stronger public-private collaboration in combating corruption. As part of this commitment, Business Botswana and the DCEC are set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise their strategic partnership, strengthen cooperation in promoting integrity and ethical business practices, and support the implementation of initiatives that advance a transparent, competitive, and corruption-resilient business environment in Botswana.

Driving Skills Development for a Competitive Economy

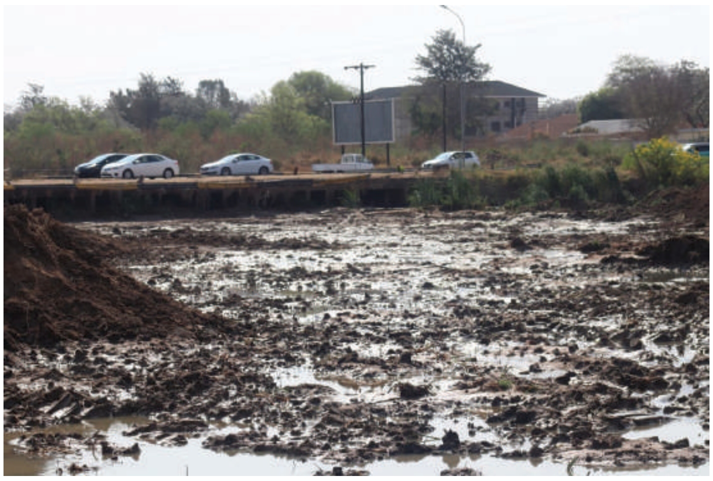
Business Botswana CEO Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi participated in the 4th Annual Employee Africa Summit 2026, where she shared the private sector perspective on aligning skills development with industry demand in a rapidly evolving digital economy. She emphasised the need for stronger collaboration between business, government and training institutions to bridge the skills gap, promote workplace readiness and invest in continuous learning.

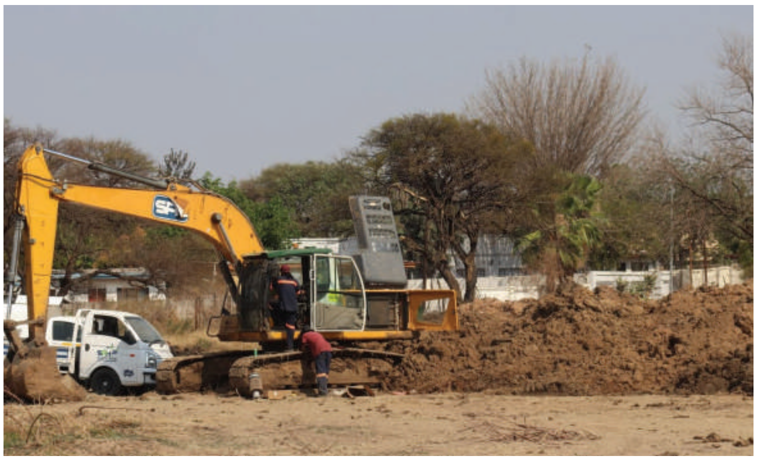
Reaffirming Business Botswana's commitment to workforce development, she called on businesses to move beyond consuming talent to actively developing it through mentorship, internships, graduate programmes and lifelong learning to build a competitive, productive and future-ready workforce.



7. BUSINESS BOTSWANA DRIVES SECTOR DISASTER RESPONSE FUND (PSDRF)

As the Secretariat of the Private Sector Disaster Response Fund (PSDRF), Business Botswana continues to coordinate and drive private sector participation in strengthening Botswana's disaster preparedness and response. Since the Fund's launch in March 2025, over P9 million has been mobilised in cash and more than P15 million in kind from over 40 companies, supporting critical interventions in affected communities. Business Botswana has provided strategic and administrative support to the PSDRF Board of Governance, facilitated stakeholder collaboration, and coordinated engagements with government and development partners to ensure transparent, timely, and impactful implementation of relief initiatives. Looking ahead, Business Botswana is leading the development of a comprehensive PSDRF Strategy that will enhance rapid response capabilities, deepen private sector participation, and position the Fund as a sustainable national disaster response mechanism.





For more information, please access the fund newsletter at
https://www.bb.org.bw/index.php/business-download-details/did/243/private-sector-disaster-response-fund-newsletter

On The HORIZON

- Biennial National Business Conference
- Financial Inclusion Summit
- Value Chain Development Programme (National & Regional)
- B2B Linkages for Members
- Annual Golf Day
- Responsible Business Programme
- Decent Work Programme
- Capacity Building Workshops
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