

DUMELA



Newsletter from Botswana Sweden Friendship Association No 3/2018

Dear BOTSFA members and friends

First and foremost, it is my pleasure to respectfully welcome new BOTSFA members and to thank Dumela readers for supporting the newsletter. I believe most of you have survived this year's extraordinary warm Swedish summer (noted as the hottest in, possibly, a million years!).

One important thing this passing season, for me as a permanent resident in Sweden, I enjoyed casting my vote in the regional and municipal Swedish elections at our General Consulate Office at Sanitas in Gaborone. I also had the opportunity to register for the 2019 Botswana National elections in the Mmopane/ Lentsweletau Constituency, as a Motswana by birth, and Omang ID holder. I therefore encourage Botswana living in Sweden to go and register in high numbers.

This year I spent the 52nd Botswana Independence celebrations with my family in a cool weather, preceded by a

one-hour heavy rain showers in Molepolole on Friday 28th September. The temperatures had been very high the week before independence, reaching 38°C during the day, later dropping to below 20°C following the rain showers. In this issue, you will read Independence Anniversary Speech by President Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi.

An interesting article informs us about the successful sprinter from Botswana, Isaac Makwala.

With sadness, we announce the deaths of three BOTSFA members.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE TO BOTSWANA and may BOTSFA grow from strength to strength!

Nelly Kabomo-Hogård
BOTSFA Chairperson



Welcome to BOTSFA!

MEMBERSHIP FEES

• Individual: SEK 175 • Family: SEK 300 (incl. children up to 15) • Student: SEK 100 • Institution: SEK 500
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Botswana – Independence Anniversary Speech by President Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi

1. My fellow citizens, today we mark the 52nd Anniversary of the Independence

of our beloved country. As we celebrate our existence as an independent and sovereign nation, we also take pride in the fact that Botswana has remained united and peaceful since 1966.

2. Therefore, on this occasion, we have every reason to celebrate our past with a deep sense of fulfilment and happiness. We must give thanks and acknowledgement to our past leaders; Sir Seretse Khama, Sir Quett Ketumile Joni Masire, Dr. Festus Gontebanye Mogae, and our most recent Former President Lt. Gen. Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, for their devotion to this our Republic. It is also time for us as a nation to look into the future with confidence, renewed hope, and commitment to achieve our set goals of achieving »Prosperity for All«, as espoused in our National Vision 2036.

3. Whilst we will be spending our time on this historic day visiting family and friends, and undertaking various activities, we should not lose sight of the significance of the day. The fact that Botswana has had visionary leadership during its early years who were able to preside over the affairs of this nation from humble beginnings and through turbulent and trying times, is a legacy bequeathed on all of us to emulate.

4. Our adherence to shared values and principles, particularly the respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law, and the spirit of consultation and Botho, have always guided us in charting the future of this great country.

5. Botswana continues to enjoy peace and relative prosperity as a result of commitment to these values and principles.

6. It is indeed evident that we have to apply our concerted efforts as a nation to ensure the material and social wellbeing of Botswana, in which no one is left behind.

7. As we celebrate our own record of impressive economic growth and development over five decades, let us take cognisance of both the domestic and global challenges that we still face as a nation.

8. Let us be mindful of our responsibility as individuals to protect and jealously guard our national values and principles which have kept us together for a long time.

9. An important responsibility of citizens in a vibrant democracy such as ours, is the exercise of the right and duty to vote in national elections.

10. To this end, today's Anniversary comes at a time when the registration of voters began on 5th September 2018 to

11th November 2018 in preparation for our 12th National Elections to be held in October 2019.

11. I therefore, encourage every Botswana to register to vote so that next year they will be able to exercise their constitutional right to choose their political leadership.

12. I also wish to remind you that your participation in national elections will as usual, unite us in our commitment to sustain the democratic values and practices that have kept us together since 1966.

13. Fellow citizens, our democracy remains rooted in our adherence to the Constitution, which is the legal guarantor of our collective responsibilities to each other as citizens as well as the individual liberties that we all enjoy.

14. I therefore, wish to reiterate my commitment to respect the Constitution, as I did during my Inauguration Address, and I appeal to all Botswana to do the same.

15. As I outlined in my Inauguration Speech, we are committed to build a Botswana in which sustained development is underpinned by economic diversification, sustainable economic growth, employment creation and investment in human capital, for building a prosperous and inclusive society. This is informed by our desire to eradicate poverty with the ultimate goal of sustaining a society that provides opportunity and dignity for all.

16. We continue to face a myriad of challenges such as unemployment, poverty, crime, HIV and AIDS, alcohol and drug abuse, amongst others. Violent crimes against women are a great cause for concern and Government will take the necessary steps to address the menace.

17. To this end, Government will redouble its efforts to ensure that all the challenges outlined above are addressed in a robust and effective manner, through appropriate policies and programmes.

18. In conclusion, I would like to confirm that I am confident about our ability as Botswana to overcome challenges in order to achieve our set goals and national aspirations.

19. Let us pray to God for good rains as we approach the next rainy season. I therefore urge all farmers to move timely in order to take advantage of the rains.

20. May all of us enjoy a happy and safe 52nd Independence Anniversary, while we recommit our resolve, with God's guidance, to take this country to greater heights.

21. I thank you.

22. God bless you.

PULA!



Botswana's medallists Isaac Makwala (gold) and Baboloki Thebe (silver) with Jamaica's Javon Francis (bronze) celebrate during the medal ceremony for the men's 400 m at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

SPRINTING FOR BOTSWANA

TEXT BY Christina Malmius Engström
PHOTOS Internet

You have probably heard about Isaac Makwala, the successful sprinter from Botswana. He made headlines on July 14, 2017, in the »Meeting de Atletismo« in Madrid, when he was the first man in history to run 200 metres within 20 seconds and 400 metres within 44 seconds on the same day (43.92 in the 400 m and then 19.77 in the 200 m) just 2 hours and 20 minutes apart.



ISAAC MAKWALA was born in 1985 and specializes in the 400 metres athletics race. He was the gold medalist at the Commonwealth Games in 2018. He has also won continental titles at the distance, winning at the 2015 African

Games and twice at the African Championships in Athletics (2012, 2014). He has represented his country at the 2016 Summer Olympics, three times at the Commonwealth Games, and five times at the World Championships in Athletics (2007, 2009, 2013, 2015, 2017). With the Botswana 4 x 400 metres relay team, he has won medals at the African Games and Championships, as well as a silver medal at the 2017 IAAF World Relays.

He qualified for 400 m final at the 2017 World Championships, before being withdrawn from the race, due to illness. He later qualified for the 200 m final, placing overall sixth.

Makwala says about himself:

– I started sprinting at school from the age of 10. Back then, I used to finish in the top three, but I was never the quickest kid. During my younger days, I played more football than athletics.

– Over time, I changed emphasis from a footballer to a sprinter. I wanted to feature more in an individual sport than a team sport and from 2006 I decided to focus on athletics. I recall running at my national championships, after which I was selected for Botswana's 4x400 m team for the 2007 World Championships in Osaka. That was the point I first realised I had a talent for running.

– I love sprinting and the pursuit of records. One day I would love to break the world record. This is a big motivation.

– I grew up in a small village with one brother and five sisters and it is amazing how far the sport of athletics has taken me. It has transformed my life in so many ways and has given me a comfortable lifestyle. I love that feeling of being healthy and participating and excelling in sports. That is when I'm at my happiest.

Isaac Makwala comments on the picture of the silver-medal-winning 4 x 400 m team from Botswana at the IAAF World Relays Bahamas 2017:

– This image was taken just before we were going to collect our silver medals at the 2017 IAAF World Relays. We were all very proud of winning Botswana's first international 4 x 400 m medal and I was so happy. To win a medal here acted as a huge motivation for the future.

– It was a great moment for us and the whole of Botswana. It proved to ourselves that we can do it, and when people talk about the 4 x 400 m they also now mention Botswana, which makes us proud. In our homeland, all the kids now want to run the 400 m to try to emulate our success.



Dumelang dear Botsfa members!



WE HAVE JUST CELEBRATED

Independence (50+2). President Masisi has re-introduced Independence celebrations at

State House and I was fortunate to take part on Sunday evening and even get to exchange a few words with the First Couple. No rain, however, for Independence but we are of course all hoping for good rains this year. Summer is here and the Morula trees are greening and the Jacaranda trees in town are all covered in purple flowers.

As you all know, we have had elections in Sweden. At the Consulate we received votes from resident Swedes and visitors from Sweden. This year we were honoured to receive a vote from the BOTSFA Chairperson Nelly Kabomo-Hogård. During election times I'm »extra proud« to be representing Sweden. We have an amazing electoral system that we should all be very proud of. I often brag about how easy Sweden makes it for its citizens and non-citizen residents to vote. I have, however, received a number of questions lately as to what is happening regarding the formation of a new government in Sweden. Time will tell.

I'm sure some of you have followed the reports in early September in international media, regarding alleged mass poaching of elephants in Botswana. These reports have been, to a large extent, factually wrong and unfortunately risk damaging Botswana's good reputation on wildlife conservation. Botswana should pride itself with having the biggest elephant herd in the world, active and well working anti-poaching units (Wildlife and Botswana Defence Force) and more land area set aside for Game Reserves than most countries in the world. However, successful conservation efforts must also include and address human/wildlife interaction and possible conflicts. President Masisi has clearly emphasized that these are issues that will be addressed.

Since mid-September we have a new EU-ambassador in Gaborone, this time a Swede. Jan Sadek and his family (Anna & three children) have arrived and raised the number of Swedes in Botswana by about 10%. Jan was previously posted as Ambassador to Khartoum and most recently to Addis Ababa. We welcome them to Botswana!

Wishing you all a beautiful and colourful Swedish autumn with lots of rain. Pula!

*Kent Nilsson
Swedish Honorary Consul*

It is with regret to announce the deaths of three BOTSFA members.



BJÖRN MOSSBERG passed away at age 68 on July 4 in Lund. Björn went to Botswana as a Sida volunteer and worked as building adviser for the self-help housing authority under the Gaborone City Council during 1976–1979. He, in practice, managed the upgrading of Old Naledi.

He is survived by his wife Annette Wong Jere and son Erik Mossberg.



KARL HÉLI passed away at the age of 79 on July 10 in Stockholm. Karl was engaged by Sida to work at the Botswana Enterprise Development Unit (BEDU) as Senior Building Advisor in 1973–1977. Karl served as BOTSFA's auditor for an extended period of time and was a very regular participant at the association's activities. He is survived by his wife Hanne Héli Saler, son Carl (and seven siblings).



JAN OLOFSSON passed away at age 69 on July 14 in Sundsvall. Jan first worked as a Sida volunteer for the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) during 1974–1977 and later as Design Manual Consultant (1986–1988), ending his assignment to Botswana as Principal Water Engineer (1990–1991).

Jan is survived by his wife Kerstin and three sons.

PER JÄRTBY and FOLKE LÖFGREN

continue to organize informal get-togethers for BOTSFA members and other friends of Botswana. On September 24th, twenty-five participants met at Grappa in Stockholm to view video documentaries by BOTSFA member Mats Ögren Wanger on Rhino conservation in Botswana and Kenya.

Ambassador Lameck Nthekela briefed the gathering on the recently released internationally controversial news on the killing of elephants in northern Botswana.

The organizers would like to receive suggestions on presenters and topics for future get-togethers.

PLEASE CONTACT

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