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**Office of President Okays Daunara Camp**

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# Office of President Okays Daunara Camp

By Boniface Keakabetse

The Office of the President has stepped in to facilitate the provision of Daunara Camp, which is situated inside NG32 with a tourism license. Information reaching The Okavango Express is that the camp had not been issued with a license for almost a year despite it having enrolled and paying the staff.

Majority of Daunara Camp staff come from Daunara settlement which form part of NG32 under Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust.

The camp's operation and licensing, has been delayed thus far due to a reported land dispute with the Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community over the plot of property on which it is situated.

Exasperated by the state of

affairs, one of the camp directors allegedly threatened the president's office lately, saying that they would withdraw their investment and depart Botswana, citing the 'delay that caused them to lose business.'

Under duress, the OP gave the Department of Tourism the order to grant the license, The Okavango Express understands. "During a meeting with the OP and permanent secretaries in Gaborone, he threatened to tear down the tents and depart" a source told *The Okavango Express*.

Contacted for comment Camp Manager Bujos Moabi said: "We appreciate your interest and wanted to let you know that we are in the final stages of becoming fully operational," We are eagerly getting ready for our

grand opening, and we would be thrilled to have media organizations like yours attend. Sharing all the exciting details about our project will be made possible by this fantastic opportunity.

However, he did not confirm not deny if the license was indeed issued following the OP's intervention.

At the time of going to print, attempts to reach the Office of the President for comment were unsuccessful.

According to the information on their website, the three owners David, Lisa, and Matt met in the Okavango Delta and quickly recognized their passion and complimentary skill sets to start a new safari company that prioritizes communities and animals.

"Daunara represents the culmination of a dream shared by three people with a passion for Africa. Together, they have created an ecotourism destination that represents their love for Botswana, and their commitment to not just creating memorable safari experiences, but having a positive impact on local communities."

The information further asserts that: "Matt's decades of guiding experience, Lisa's flair for design and David's business acumen have created a joint venture forged from friendship, a deep love for Botswana, and the desire to give back to the communities living on the fringe of the Okavango Delta.



# Ndaba to deliver budget speech on Monday



The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the 13<sup>th</sup> parliament will commence on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

The meeting will be preceded by presentation of the Appropriation Bill 2025-2026 Bill by the Minister of Finance His Honour the Vice President, Ndaba Nkosinathi Gaolathe who will immediately

thereafter present the budget speech.

It is estimated that this meeting will last for 10 weeks, that it will end on or around 17th April, 2025.

The second meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the 13<sup>th</sup> parliament is sometimes referred to as Budget meeting and mainly focus on discussing the budget.

The budget meeting will be held at parliament chamber and will be broadcast live on Botswana Television, Radio Botswana and on BW Government Facebook pages.





**KAZIKINI CAMPSITE**



**SHANDEREKA VILLAGE**

27 January 2025

**NOTICE OF SEALED BID SALE FOR COMMUNITY HUNTING QUOTA FOR CONTROLLED HUNTING AREA NG 34 (HUNTING ZONE) FOR THE 2025 HUNTING SEASON**

The Sankuyo Tshwaragano Management Trust (Sankuyo village) utilizing natural resources of Controlled Hunting Area NG 34 (Hunting Zone) covering 186 km<sup>2</sup> in the North West District would like to sell its 2025 Wildlife quota to interested Botswana registered Safari Hunting Companies.

Guidelines for the preparation of bids can be obtained from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Regional office in Maun Office no.5.

**Tenderers are required to pay a non-refundable fee of P1 500 to Sankuyo Tshwaragano Management Trust and will be required to produce proof of payment on collection of Tender documents.**

**Bids must be hand-delivered to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Regional Office in Maun – Office No.5 not later than 16:00 hours on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.**

Submissions by post, fax, e-mail or telex and submissions received after the time and date above-mentioned will **not** be considered.

The sealed bid envelopes will be date stamped and registered on delivery.

| SPECIES      | 2025 QUOTA | QUOTA FOR JVP | RESERVED PRICE PER ANIMAL IN PULA | TOTAL PRICE          |
|--------------|------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Buffalo      | 20         | 20            | 40 000.00                         | P800,000.00          |
| Eland        | 2          | 2             | 8 000.00                          | P16,000.00           |
| Elephant     | 15         | 15            | 220 000.00                        | P3,300,000.00        |
| Gemsbok      | 4          | 4             | 8 000.00                          | P32,000.00           |
| Impala       | 13         | 13            | 1 200.00                          | P15,600.00           |
| Kudu         | 4          | 4             | 4 000.00                          | P16,000.00           |
| Lechwe       | 5          | 5             | 5 000.00                          | P25,000.00           |
| Leopard      | 2          | 2             | 100 000.00                        | P200,000.00          |
| Steenbok     | 5          | 5             | 1 200.00                          | P6,000.00            |
| Warthog      | 3          | 3             | 1 200.00                          | P3,600.00            |
| Zebra        | 10         | 10            | 2700                              | P50,000.00           |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |            |               |                                   | <b>P4,464,200.00</b> |

**RECOMMENDED ALLOWABLE OFFTAKE IN COMMUNITY NG 34 (Hunting Zone) FOR YEAR 2025 HUNTING SEASON AND RESERVED**

**Total Reserve Price P4, 464,200.00 (Vat Exclusive)**

**Bird hunting is not inclusive in the quota the winner bidder can arrange for it separately with the Trust.**

Sealed bids must be addressed to:

**The Chairperson  
Sankuyo Tshwaragano Management Trust  
C/o Department of Wildlife and National Parks  
Maun.**

Submissions by post, fax, e-mail or telex and submissions received after the time and date above-mentioned will **not** be considered.

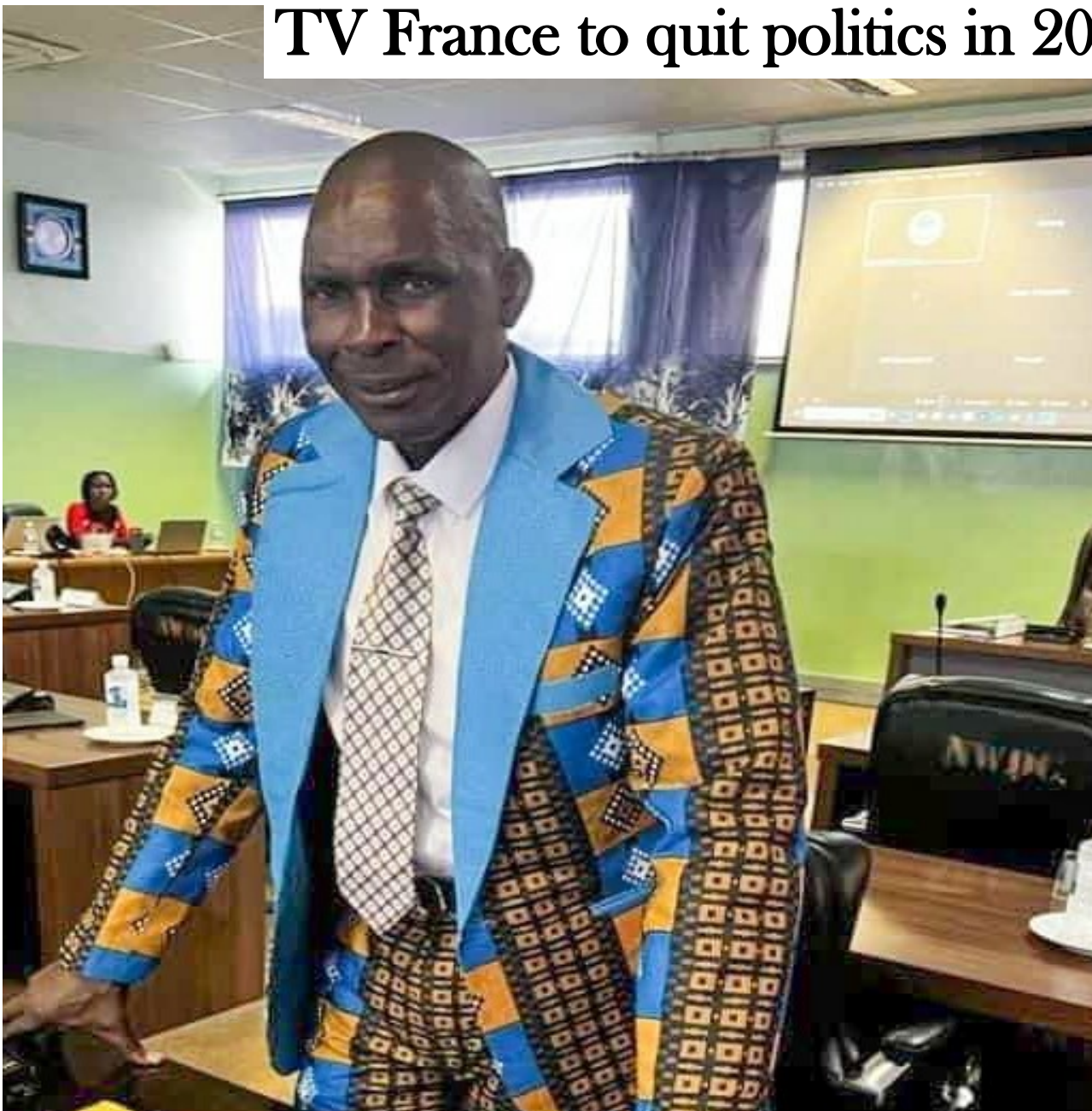
# TV France to quit politics in 2029



the community from investing in tougher structures.

TV France donated transportation services specifically for transporting building materials to villagers, enabling residents to overcome the logistical challenges they face. This initiative not only streamlines the construction process but also demonstrates his commitment to facilitating community-led growth.

He explained: " by providing access to quality materials and the means to transport them, residents are encouraged to take part in the construction of their homes. Trans-



Councillor TV France Says he is retiring from politics in 2029 and here is one of his inspirational project in eastern Okavango.

As Councillor Television France approaches retirement from active politics in 2029, it is essential to reflect on his significant contributions to the eastern Okavango Community.

The charismatic Television France has hinted that he is serving his last term as councillor and will retire from politics in 2029 and among his most commendable efforts is the pioneering initiative aimed at enhancing living conditions through im-

proved housing standards.

Traditional housing in the eastern Okavango Community predominantly relies on river reeds, a method that showcases the resourcefulness and the authenticity of the villagers.

However, these beautiful and artistic traditional structures often fall short in terms of durability and protection from environmental challenges.

In light of this problem, Councillor TV France had envisioned a time when every house has a contemporary cement room, giving families a stable and secure living space.

He recently told The Okavango Express, "I came up with a plan that each home in my ward should have at least a one-room cement house by the time I retire."

This endeavor may seem insignificant to people who are unfamiliar with the Okavango District, but those who are familiar with the poorest district in Botswana will recognize its magnitude.

The Okavango River isolated eastern Okavango from the rest of the nation for a long time, and residents had to rely on the inconvenience of the Mohembo Ferry to cross. Transportation and building material costs prevented

portation of material is expensive so the plan was for them to save on transportation and use the funds on construction itself. Although I don't have figures yet but many houses have been built through my help."

TV France initiative to improve housing conditions in the eastern Okavango Community is a perfect fit with the objectives of the new government's National Housing Program. Even though Okavango Bridge will spur growth throughout the eastern Okavango, the locals must eventually take a moment to reflect on the pioneers like TV France whose labor and sacrifice made the region what it is today.





# Africa Eden and ITFFA partner to promote Africa filming industry



The International Tourism Film Festival Africa (ITFFA) and Africa Eden, a company established in Botswana, have teamed up to advance conservation and sustainable travel in Africa. In addition to supporting local communities, economic progress, and environmental measures, the partnership aims to position Africa as a top

location for film production.

Africa's Eden, a non-profit organisation based in Botswana, representing over 400 member properties, activities and tour operators. Through this partnership, filmmakers will gain access to unique and often unexplored locations to create compelling visual narratives that showcase Africa's natural

beauty and cultural heritage.

James Byrne, the founder of ITFFA said, "Together, we will amplify Africa's story and inspire the world to embrace responsible travel practices that protect the essence of what makes our continent extraordinary." He also said that the partnership is a significant step in promoting sustainable tourism.

Promoting environmentally friendly filmmaking techniques in accordance with international industry trends is one of the partnership's main goals. In order to have a long-lasting effect on Africa's travel and film industries, it also seeks to develop indigenous talent through seminars, training courses, and networking opportunities.



# The Impact of AI Agents on the Travel Industry



The travel industry is undergoing a profound transformation as AI agents are becoming an integral part of planning, booking, and managing trips.

Article by Fetch.ai

The travel industry is undergoing a profound transformation as AI agents are becoming an integral part of planning, booking, and managing trips. These intelligent systems are reshaping how travelers engage with the industry, streamlining processes, enhancing personalization, and improving the overall travel experience. By taking over repetitive tasks, managing real-time issues, and delivering tailored recommendations, AI agents are turning travel into a more seamless and efficient journey.

Key Impacts of AI Agents in Travel:

## Personalized Travel Planning

AI agents are making travel more personalized than ever. By analyzing travelers' preferences, past

trips, and special requests, these systems generate customized travel profiles. Whether a traveler prefers beachfront locations, has specific dietary needs, or requires proximity to fitness centers or co-working spaces, AI agents can offer tailored recommendations. They can suggest ideal destinations, accommodations, and even local activities that perfectly align with the traveler's interests, making the planning process faster and more personalized.

## Time-Saving and Efficiency

Traditionally, planning a trip required hours of research on flights, accommodations, and local activities. AI agents significantly reduce this time by automatically gathering and presenting the best options in a matter of minutes. From booking flights and stays to organizing transportation and even scheduling activities, AI agents streamline every aspect of travel. This level of automation allows travelers to focus on enjoying their experience rather than worrying about logistics.

## Autonomous Booking and Payments

AI agents are also revolutionizing the booking process by handling reservations and payments. These systems can autonomously book flights, accommodations,

and experiences based on pre-authorized spending limits. Travelers no longer need to deal with complicated currency exchanges, hidden fees, or multiple payment platforms. AI agents ensure transactions are secure and seamless, offering travelers a hassle-free experience with clear budget control.

## Real-Time Problem Solving

One of the most powerful features of AI agents in the travel industry is their ability to monitor and respond to unforeseen challenges in real-time. Whether it's a weather event affecting travel plans, a delayed flight, or an overbooked hotel, AI systems can detect the problem early and provide solutions. These agents can automatically rebook flights, find alternative accommodations, or make arrangements for transportation, ensuring the traveler's journey remains smooth and stress-free.

## Enhanced Travel Safety and Security

AI agents are playing a crucial role in improving safety and security for travelers. By integrating real-time data from weather alerts, local safety reports, and health advisories, AI agents help travelers stay informed about potential risks during their trips. If an issue arises, the system can quickly notify the traveler, offering alternative travel routes or accommodations to mitigate the impact.

## Itinerary Management

AI agents not only handle booking but also create comprehensive, optimized itineraries. These systems can factor in flight schedules, visa requirements, transportation options, and even local

events. With everything organized in one place, travelers can easily review and adjust their plans without getting bogged down by the finer details. Additionally, AI agents continuously monitor for any changes or disruptions, offering real-time updates and alternatives when necessary.

## Benefits for the Travel Industry:

### Operational Efficiency

Travel agencies, airlines, and accommodation providers benefit from AI agents by automating tasks that traditionally required significant human labor, such as responding to customer queries, handling bookings, and managing payment systems. This increases operational efficiency and reduces costs.

### Improved Customer Satisfaction

With AI agents providing personalized, timely, and reliable services, customers enjoy a smoother travel experience. The ability to address problems in real-time further enhances satisfaction, leading to stronger customer loyalty and positive reviews.

### Resource Optimization

AI agents optimize resources for travelers and businesses alike. By ensuring that budgets are adhered to, transactions are secure, and time is used efficiently, AI technology helps both sides get the most out of their resources. AI agents are revolutionizing the travel industry by making it more personalized, efficient, and resilient to disruptions. Whether handling bookings, managing payments, or responding to unforeseen circumstances, these intelligent systems offer travelers a higher-quality experience while saving time and reducing stress. As AI technology continues to evolve, its impact on travel will likely grow, creating a future where every journey is seamless, tailored, and enjoyable.



# Natural Selections' Mbamba Opens in April



A charming explorer-style camp situated within the NG12 concession in the north-western Okavango, Mbamba is the newest addition to the Natural Selection portfolio.

With a mix of open grasslands, floodplains, forested islands, and lagoons, Mbamba will provide a range of breathtaking landscapes with ecosystem variations to support an amazing array of Okavango wildlife.

Mbamba, which will open in April 2025, will be the sister

camp to Natural Selections Duke's, which is situated in the same NG12 concession as Duke's East and North Island. There are twelve canvas tent rooms in the camp, including two family units with private verandas, standing fans, overbed cooling systems, indoor showers, and ensuite bathrooms. The camp is finished with a basic, elegant main area that includes two lounges, a small library, a pool, and a fire pit. It offers a cozy, genuine safari experience at a reasonable price.

The camp is located in a stun-

ningly open region where the Okavango River starts to stretch out, forming the largest inland delta in the world. There is a remarkable variety of birds, reptiles, and mammals to be seen.

The area is home to lions and wild dogs, as well as the rarely seen sable antelope. Along with a wide variety of wildlife, Okavango bird specialties such as the endangered wattled crane and the highly sought-after Pel's fishing owl are frequently found here.

Activities at Mbamba include

boating and mokoro safaris when water levels permit, as well as game drives both during the day and at night, all of which are intended to help visitors discover this incredibly diverse and stunning region. Given Natural Selection's emphasis on stunning, distinctive camps and safari experiences, Mbamba is expected to gain popularity as a camp that provides a rich Okavango experience at an extremely affordable price.





# African Bush Camps (ABC), authentic African safari experience.



Founded in 2006 by local Zimbabwean guide Beks Ndlovu, African Bush Camps (ABC) is home to the authentic African safari experience.

With 18 distinct Experiences across Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, we promote and influence African safari travel on a global scale.

African Bush Camps Foundation (ABCF) is our non-profit organization that has been working alongside us since 2006. ABCF works within the communities and wildlife areas surrounding our Experiences.

Through proactively partnering with local communities, ABCF strives to improve quality of life and foster long-term preservation through its programs focused on Community, Conservation, and Sustainability. In Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, ABCF tackles critical challenges related to unemployment, food scarcity, limited access to education and

healthcare, financial empowerment, wildlife poaching, and the preservation of natural resources.

**ABC AND ABCF MODEL OF POSITIVE IMPACT** ABC and ABCF operates under three interconnected pillars: Community: Empowering local communities through programs addressing essential needs, creating job opportunities, and driving local economic growth.

**Conservation:** Conserving Africa's natural environments through initiatives that protect wildlife, minimize human-wildlife conflict, and promote responsible resource use.

**Sustainability:** Being responsible for reducing our environmental impact across the company and Experiences while also investing in staff and local economic development.

**A SPOTLIGHT ON BOTSWANA** In Botswana, ABCF's initiatives have made remarkable strides in

education and community development.

Its key achievements include: Khwai Pre-School: ABCF has constructed a second classroom, built ablutions, repaired the school fence, upgraded the jungle gym, and installed a solar system. It continues to support the school by employing a chef and a cleaner, providing nutritional meals twice daily, and supplying additional monthly meals to Khwai Primary School.

**Female Guides Program:** In 2021, ABCF helped launch the Female Guides Program, with the aim of spearheading change in the safari industry by empowering women and championing gender equality.

Currently, 15 women in Botswana and Zambia are advancing through the program. This initiative earned the 2023 Regenerative Travel Impact Award in the Education category.

Annual Stationery Donation

**Event:** Since 2022, ABCF has partnered with Moshia Wellness Spa to donate stationery to Khwai Pre-School and Khwai Primary School. On January 15, 2025, the event grew into a fun-filled day of sports and games for 150 children from both schools.

Each child received a school bag with books, pencils, pens, and notebooks. The celebration brought the community together for a memorable day.

**Vuche Vuche Basket Weaving Project:** ABCF empowers women by supporting this initiative that transforms traditional basket weaving into meaningful employment opportunities.

Our guests can purchase these beautiful creations from the women directly, or from our in-camp Trading Posts.

They can also participate in basket-weaving workshops that teach them about Botswana's rich cultural heritage.

**ACROSS AFRICA: ABCF'S IMPACT IN ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE** In Zambia and Zimbabwe, ABCF continues to make a difference with initiatives such as: Education: Supporting schools with infrastructure upgrades, nutrition programs, and learning materials. Conservation: Protecting livestock and wildlife through the Lion Boma Project and antipoaching initiatives.

**Healthcare:** Building clinics, providing clean drinking water, and reducing human-wildlife conflict with fenced wash points along the Zambezi River





# The Phuduhudu Cultural Festival to celebrate rich heritage of Phuduhudu village



The Phuduhudu Cultural Festival (PCF) scheduled for 21-22 March 2025 will celebrate and preserve the rich heritage of Phuduhudu village.

The Phuduhudu Cultural Festival is a strives to be an annual event aimed at celebrating and preserving the rich cultural heritage of Phuduhudu village. This inaugural festival will not only showcase the unique traditions of the community but also draw attention to the historical sites that require research, documentation, and protection.

The festival will offer a variety of

activities including a cultural dinner, traditional fire lighting ceremony, green initiatives, game drives, and entertainment from various cultural artists.

The Phuduhudu Cultural Festival, hosted by the Xhauhwatubi Development Trust, is set to become an annual celebration that honours the rich cultural heritage and traditions of our village.

Scheduled for 21-22 March 2025, this inaugural festival aims to foster a deep sense of community pride while attracting visitors to our unique historical sites and vibrant local culture

In a rapidly changing world, it is crucial to preserve our cultural identity and engage the younger generation in our rich traditions.

The festival will serve as a platform for storytelling, showcasing traditional music, dance, and culinary delights that reflect our diverse heritage.

Activities will include a traditional dinner featuring local foods, a fire lighting ceremony to mark the festival's opening, and performances by local artists, all designed to create an immersive cultural experience.

Additionally, the festival will highlight important historical sites in Phuduhudu that require research, documentation, and protection.

By bringing attention to these sites, the aim is to promote heritage, conservation and encourage community involvement in safeguarding their history.

In recognition of the importance of sustainability in today's world, the festival will incorporate green initiatives, including a cycling event that encourages eco-friendly practices and a game drive to appreciate the abundant wildlife.

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