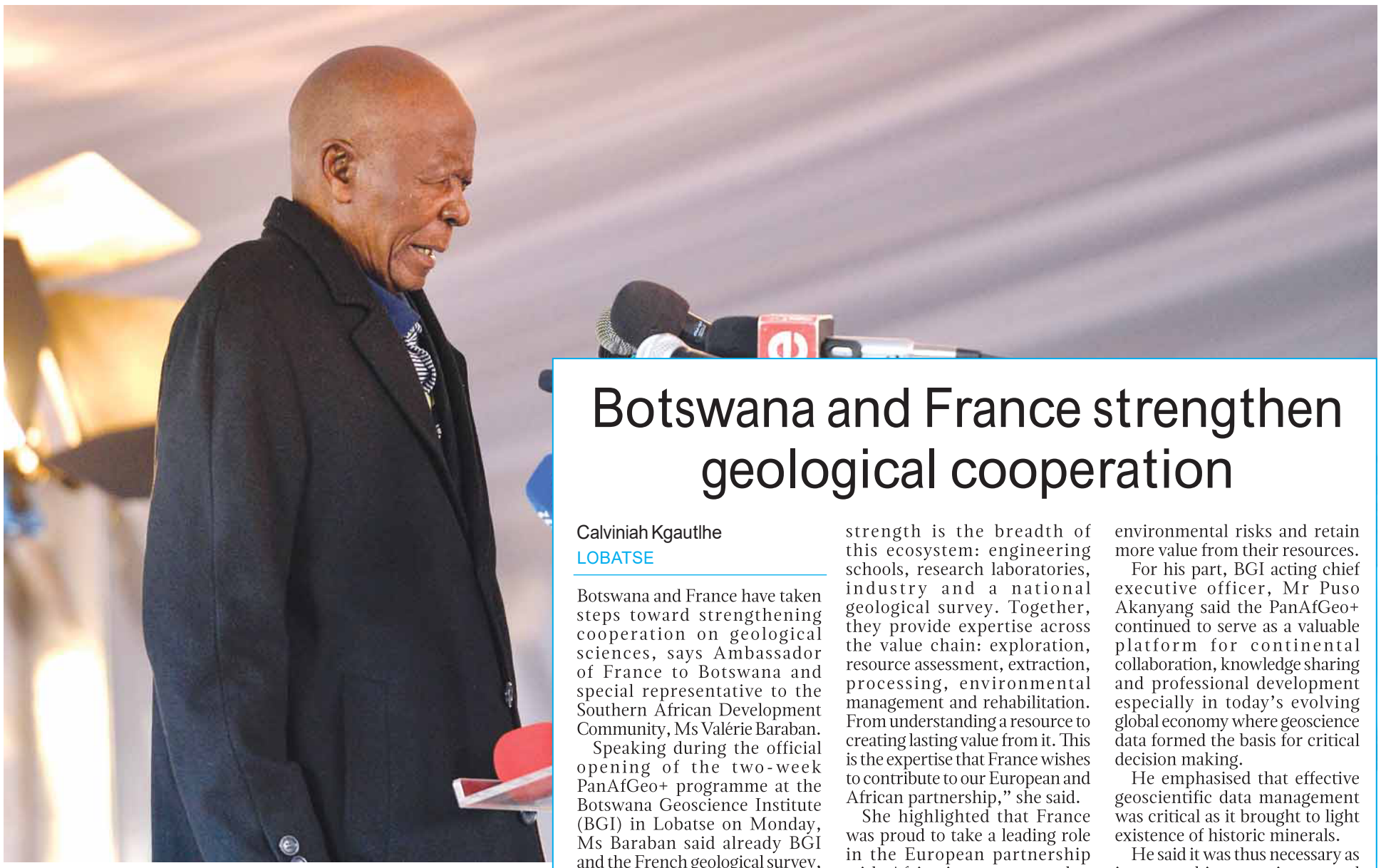


A renowned farmer, Basimanyana Masire has died on Monday aged 88. He will be buried in Kanye on Saturday.

Mophuting pays tribute to Masire

Marvin Motlhabane
KANYE

The late Basimanyana Masire has been described as a man of many firsts.

Masire, who died on Monday at Sidilega Private Hospital after battling a long illness, was a staunch farmer, who ran a ranch at Bonyamabogo, some 40 kilometres south of Jwaneng.

He is credited for being one of the founding members of the Southern District Beef Farmers Association (SDBFA), an agricultural organisation that represents and supports cattle and beef producers in the Southern District.

According to SDBFA chairperson, Mr Mosimane Mophuting, Masire was a staunch farmer, known for his cattle breeds, which ranged from Romagnola to Afrikaner (both yellow and red).

He said the late Masire was also credited with introducing V8 cattle semen for breeding American Brahman cattle in Botswana.

"In 1978, he carried out the first successful embryo transplant in his cattle post, applying knowledge he had gained from his studies overseas," Mr Mophuting said.

Furthermore, Mr Mophuting said when compared with fellow cattle farmers Masire stood out as a cut above the rest.

"He knew a great deal about cattle and was intentional about seeking market access beyond the continent; as a result, his breeds met EU-market quality standards," he said.

He also described him as a farmer who strongly supported others, as evidenced by his generosity in donating some of his bulls for breeding purposes across Gangwaketse area.

Mr Mophuting said Masire advanced his skills by taking strategic courses in countries such as Spain and Cuba; trainings, which gave him a deep understanding of the anatomy of diverse cattle breeds. Also, he said the late worked with a team that established the SDBFA and also helped build the last Foot and Mouth Disease fence in the Southern District around 1958s along Werda where Mashampa Quarantine was established.

A family representative, Mr Basimane Masire said his father was survived by wife, Ms Alma Masire and four children.

Born into the Masire family at Goo-Matebejana Ward in Kanye, he was the youngest of five siblings and a brother to Botswana's second President, Sir Ketumile Masire, who died in 2017. Masire will be buried in Kanye on Saturday. ***BOPA***

Botswana and France strengthen geological cooperation

Calviniah Kgautlhe
LOBATSE

Botswana and France have taken steps toward strengthening cooperation on geological sciences, says Ambassador of France to Botswana and special representative to the Southern African Development Community, Ms Valérie Baraban.

Speaking during the official opening of the two-week PanAfGeo+ programme at the Botswana Geoscience Institute (BGI) in Lobatse on Monday, Ms Baraban said already BGI and the French geological survey, a leading public institution for Earth Science in France, were working toward a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at building cooperation across the geological survey value chain, skills, geological mapping, research, technologies and data management, including responsible and sovereign use of Artificial Intelligence.

As Botswana moved toward economic diversification, she said such capabilities could help turn geological potential into new opportunities.

France, she said had longstanding commitment to Earth sciences, which started in the 18th Century.

"France's particular strength is the breadth of this ecosystem: engineering schools, research laboratories, industry and a national geological survey. Together, they provide expertise across the value chain: exploration, resource assessment, extraction, processing, environmental management and rehabilitation. From understanding a resource to creating lasting value from it. This is the expertise that France wishes to contribute to our European and African partnership," she said.

She highlighted that France was proud to take a leading role in the European partnership with Africa in a program that was targeted at strengthening geoscientific capacity across Africa through training, knowledge exchange, and long-term institutional collaboration.

"Geological knowledge carries real economic and political weight. Our purpose is to share expertise, strengthen institutions and support African priorities," she said.

She said the two-week programme, which runs from October 12 to 23 and had attracted geologists from 13 African nations, was pertinent as geologists produced reliable geoscience data which helped countries negotiate investment, protect groundwater, manage environmental risks and retain more value from their resources.

For his part, BGI acting chief executive officer, Mr Puso Akanyang said the PanAfGeo+ continued to serve as a valuable platform for continental collaboration, knowledge sharing and professional development especially in today's evolving global economy where geoscience data formed the basis for critical decision making.

He emphasised that effective geoscientific data management was critical as it brought to light existence of historic minerals.

He said it was thus necessary as it was used in managing ground water resources, addressing environmental challenges or planning major infrastructure projects, and robust national frameworks.

In addition, Mr Akanyang said modernising how geoscientific data was collected, managed, stored, shared and analysed was essential for economic development.

He thus advised the participants, who were set to gain insightful knowledge on Geoscientific Information Management, that geology knew no boundaries, adding that it was pertinent for them to work together and form networks toward collective delivery. ***BOPA***



Botswana Geoscience Institute (BGI) Project Management office lead, Mr Mojaboswa Koketso (left), BGI Information director, Ms Lesego Ramaabya (second left), Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland training leader, Mr Frands Schjoth (centre), France Ambassador to Botswana, Ms Valérie Baraban (second right) and BGI acting CEO, Mr Puso Akanyang during official opening of the PanAfGeo+ programme for Geologists from across the African continent, in Lobatse on Monday. Ambassador Baraban said the programme would help geologists turn data into decisions and geological knowledge into lasting public benefit. Photo: Calviniah Kgautlhe