

BEC Attains ISO 9001:2008 Certification



Botswana Examinations Council Executive Secretary (l), Prof. Brian Mokopakgosi pictured with BEC Chairperson Dr. Joseph Tsonope (r), with BOBS Acting Chief Executive Officer Mr. Theko Fako (far left) displaying the BOS ISO 9001 certification flag. **Story on Page 4.**



Fngile Makgalemele
Corporate
Communications
Manager

This edition of *Maduo* newsletter is a 'happy' edition featuring the BEC's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, the Annual Excellence Awards and the leading story; which documents BEC's ISO 9001 Certification journey and celebration.

The edition is rich with content as it covers activities not only from the Council activities but also activities by its parent ministry and also celebrates the life of the late Minister of Education Mr. Kebatlamang Morake.

BEC in partnership with the Parent Ministry of Basic of Education continues to recognise excelling students through its Annual Excellence Awards initiative. This year a total of 37 students from PSLE, JCE and BGCSE received awards.

In this issue BEC's extends its heartiest Corporate Social Responsibility to the Gweta Community by donating kitchen utensils after the aftermath of the floods that swept through their village. BEC also made a significant contribution by donating sporting equipment to Mantshwabisi Primary School under this initiative.

The ISO 9001 status endorsed by the Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) stands out heads and shoulders above other highlights of the BEC perhaps why this publication focuses on it. The certification goes beyond just giving BEC stakeholders and customers confidence in the Council, it also assures them on the quality of BEC's product and services. The Council's employees demonstrated the spirit of teamwork during the ISO 9001 project.

Please enjoy, and as in the past, give feedback for continuous improvement.

Mission

To Provide a credible and responsive assessment and examination system.

Mission Commentary

Credible: Trustworthy and Error free assessments and examinations that conform to both the local and international standards.

Responsive: Examination and Assessment system that is affiliated to the national curriculum, takes into cognisance candidates with special needs and is not detached from current issues in the environment, also relevant to the local market.

Vision

To be a provider of accessible and globally competitive qualifications.

Core Values

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Transparency
- People Focus

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Kematlamang Morake passes on



Mr. K.P. Morake was the longest serving Minister of Education

Pic: Courtesy of MoBE PR Unit

By Otsile R. Tapson

The Education fraternity mourns the loss of one of its founders, Kematlamang P. Morake. The longest serving Minister of Education passed away at Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital on the 29th August 2017, aged 87.

Born on November 21, 1930 in Tonota, the sprightly-minded teacher nicknamed 'baby shoe' due to his witty and tiny stature, displayed enthusiasm and sheer dedication for public service. Morake attended school in Tonota School from 1939 to 1947. In 1948, he enrolled for a teachers' training course at Kanye until 1950. From 1951 to 1952 he studied at Tiger Kloof Institution in Vryburg in the Republic of South Africa, where he obtained his Junior Certificate.

Upon his return from Vryburg in 1953, Morake began teaching at Tonota and would spend eleven years, rising through the ranks to the position of a Head teacher. He joined the Botswana Democratic Party in 1962 while he was still a teacher. In 1965, he was sent to England for an Advanced Teachers' course at the Institute of Education, Newcastle-on-Tyne. In preparation for a political career after independence on September 30, 1966, he undertook political training courses in Britain, West Germany, Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya. Upon his return in 1965, he was appointed the first Executive Secretary of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) and Editor of the party newspaper 'Therisanyo'. As a Party Executive Secretary, his skills in projecting policies for the people won him praises from President Sir Seretse Khama and party loyalists. In 1967, he went to the United States of America as a guest of the State Department to study Political Administration and Organisation.

In October 1969 he became a specially elected MP to the National Assembly and was appointed Assistant Minister at the President's Office with special responsibility over Information Services. He undertook assignments for Sir Seretse Khama, sometimes representing him at meetings.

In 1970, he studied Broadcasting Services in a study tour of Britain. During a cabinet reshuffle in April 1972, he was switched to Local Government and Lands as Assistant to Mr. Englishman M. K. Kgabo. After contesting and winning the 1974 elections under the BDP banner in Mmadinare, Morake was appointed Education Minister from 1975 to 1990. He remains the longest Minister to serve under the portfolio of Education to date. Morake also served in the Ministries of Health and Agriculture between 1991 and 1994.

To show his dedication towards the development of education in Botswana, he reportedly donated five cattle towards the 'one man, one beast appeal' *'motho le motho kgomo'* for the construction of the University of Botswana during his tenure as the Minister of Education.

Morake was a staunch BDP executive member and veteran who was active in party activities until his last days.

May his Soul rest in Eternal Peace.

Additional Sources: Prabook.com and Mmegi Newspaper (01-09-2017 Vol.31, No 127)

BEC Attains BOS:ISO 9001 Certification



BOBS Acting Managing Director Mr.Theko Fako handing the BOS ISO 9001:2008 certification to BEC Executive Secretary Prof.Brian Mokopakgosi, on the foreground is BEC Board Chairperson Dr.J.Tsonope



Quality and Compliance Manager Mr.Mothusi Ntau directing proceedings.

By Keoitse P. Mogotsi

On the 19th May, 2017, the Botswana Examinations Council held a certification ceremony at its premises where the Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) handed over a BOS ISO 9001:2008 certificate to the Council.

The ceremony was honoured by the Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Basic Education Mr. Simon Coles who is also a BEC Board member, BEC Board Chairperson Dr. Joseph Tsonope, BOBS Acting Managing Director Mr. Theko Fako, BEC Board Members, BOBS Auditors and the media.

The BOS ISO 9001:2008 provide a framework of globally recognised principles of quality management. The ISO certification, means that BEC pledges to provide services that consistently conform to requirements specified in the BOS ISO 9001:2008 standards. BEC employees therefore, have to ensure that processes and procedures are followed when performing their daily work to ensure world class service to the BEC clients.

Speaking at the ceremony the Executive Secretary of Botswana Examinations Council Professor Brian Mokopakgosi said that BEC is now joining an elite group of parastatal organisations in the country that are ISO certified, which is a significant accomplishment in its quest for quality. Prof. Mokopakgosi highlighted that the implementation of the ISO 9001:2008 Project was initiated in 2009 and was initially to be completed in 2011 but the



Executive Secretary Prof. B. Mokopakgosi addressing BEC staff and guests.



BOBS Acting Managing Director Theko Fako

Council experienced some challenges which led to the review of timelines for the delivery of the project. It was only in 2015 when the BEC started working on the ISO 9001:2008 project again. He further said that the achievement of the certification was not a stress free mission, particularly for a large organisation like BEC with many functions, complex processes, and extremely sensitive business nature. He said that BEC is aware that elsewhere within and outside borders transition period of ISO 9001:2015 has already began and he is sure BEC is going to be amongst other organisations who will not only maintain certificate status to September 2018 but will eventually obtain ISO 9001:2015 certification. The Executive Secretary said BEC stands out as one of the benchmarks for the rest of the Examinations Boards in Southern African Development Countries (SADC) region.

Before handing over the certificate to BEC the Acting Managing Director of Botswana Bureau of Standards said the certificate is a testimony and knowledge that the Quality Management System (QMS) of Botswana Examinations Council as assessed by BOBS, was found to be in conformance to the requirements of BOS ISO 9001:2008 Standard. "The scope for your certificate covers Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) Junior Certificate Examinations (JCE) and Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE), as well as administration of external examinations", said Mr. Fako. He further said that in today's business transactions worldwide, preference is given to certified organisations as this gives confidence to one's principals and stakeholders. He said the certification assures that one transacts business in an orderly manner because the processes and procedures are monitored continually to ensure continual improvement.

Mr Fako handed the BOS ISO 9001:2008 certificate and flag to BEC and the flag was installed on the same day during the event at BEC. The handing over entitles BEC to use the BOBS certification logo on publicity and advertising material for promotional purposes. BEC acquired the Quality Management System certification after hardwork, commitment and determination that was shown by all during stages of audits which were conducted by Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS). Being certified means that BEC employees should continue to follow their quality standards, maintain the good work to retain the certificate as this attributes to the highly recognised work experience internationally. Also being certified means that there will be improved productivity, reduction in operational costs, improved service delivery to stakeholders and a strong basis for continual improvement at BEC.



BEC Board Chairpeson Dr. Joseph Tsonope giving a motivational speech.



BEC choir doing what they do best



BEC staff listening to the day's deliberations.

BEC goes to the North



MOTE Asst. Minister Honourable Fidelis Molao (M), Francistown Mayor Mrs. Grace Muzilla (L) and HRDC CEO Dr. Dingalo (R) visiting BEC stall at the HRDC Northern Fair.



BEC representatives assisting multitudes of students at the HRDC Northern Fair

By Karabo Morule

The Botswana Human Resource Development (BHRD) Skills Fair and Career Clinics for 2017 which is intended to be held in both the North and the South of Botswana recently concluded its first leg in Francistown from 27th February to 2nd March 2017.

Botswana Examinations Council was one of the participants at this event, providing certification services for students who wished to certify their certificates and statements of results in order to apply to institutions of higher education.

The BHRD Skills Fair and Career Clinics is a strategic stakeholder engagement activity is geared towards promoting the training and education sector. This initiative was enhanced by using the binary approach which embedded the component of the Career Clinics.

The BHRD Skills Fair was first introduced by the then Tertiary Education Council (T.E.C) and its partners in March 2010 as an annual event.

At Francistown BEC experienced an influx of visitors who came for certification services and those who were enquiring about the BEC mandate and services. This also created an opportunity for BEC to interact with its target audience in the north without them having to travel long distances to Gaborone to access the BEC services.

It emerged at this fair that there is a great need for BEC to educate its stakeholders on its mandate and services. It also proved that BEC needs to embark on more public education campaigns be explored.

Sixth Stars Continue to Excel

By Lesego Ntuluki

Finishing in the top ten and attaining themselves Top Achievers Scholarships in 2015 was not the end of the road for the Sixth Stars as they continue their feat in their A levels studies.

Sixth Stars sat for their BGCSE in 2014 at different government schools and got their badges of excellence at a ceremony held in Gaborone in June 2015. Like their predecessors the sixth generation since the inception on the Excellence Awards

back in 2009 have proved not to be by any chance fly by nights as they have maintained their traits of excellence. Five (5) of the top ten (10) Top Achievers chose Maru-a-pula School as their school of choice for their A levels and all of them are amongst the school's best fifteen (15) students.

Four of them; Dimpho Gosenyang, Nicole Maikano, Gorata Malose and Dikano Motamma have all passed AS Level (1st Part of A-Level ; highest grade A) with an impressive 3A while the fifth Daniel

Kgauthe leads the pack with 4A putting him in the top six (6) of the entire school.

Maduo caught up with Excellence Awards Chairperson Fingile Makgalemele who explained that, when Botswana Examinations Council conceived the Annual Excellence Awards initiative, the intended mission was to encourage students to either improve or maintain their outstanding performance. "It is very encouraging to know that our efforts are not in vain," said the delighted Makgalemele.

BEC scoops an award at the Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair



BEC Corporate Communications team pictured with Business Botswana President Mr. Lekwalo Mosienyane at the Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair after receiving the Award

By Jacqueline Monei

Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) won third place prize in the Education and Training Category at the Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair awards held on Friday 26th May 2017 at Tati River Lodge, Francistown.

The Fair was held from the 24th May until the 28th May at Business Botswana grounds in Francistown.

Business Botswana hosts the fair annually to provide a platform for businesses to network, market their products and services.

It provides a one-stop-shop where all exhibitors and visitors are able to come together and network in one place, creating business connections and trade opportunities. The trade fair that was attended by over 200 exhibitors was held under the theme: "Agility in Botswana: Optimising Business in 50 years and beyond. The theme talks to businesses and organisations to adapt to the changing market. Speaking

during the awards ceremony, Business Botswana President, Mr. Lekwalo Mosienyane said that the trade fair enables participants to stay up to par with industry trends. Mr. Mosienyane highlighted that Business Botswana will continue to stimulate growth by working with government and the private sector in promoting and building a great economic growth in the market.

Taking about the won prize the Senior Corporate Communications Officer Mr. Charles Keikhotlhae said the achievement was a team effort, following proper planning. He further said that Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair is a platform that BEC always takes full advantage to reach out to its stakeholders in the Northern Region of the Country.

Botswana International University of Science (BIUST) took the first position while Shashe Brigade came second in the Education and Training category .

Excellence Awards Live on Btv

By Lesego Ntuluki

For the first time since their inception eight (8) years ago, the Botswana Examinations Council in collaboration with Ministry of Basic Education Annual Excellence Awards were broadcast live on the national television Botswana Television.

Though the previous edition of the awards was also broadcast on Btv, it was only a recorded broadcast. The live airing came about as a result of Department of Broadcasting Services (DBS) coming on board as one of the sponsors of the event.

The BEC Corporate Communications Manager, Ms. Fingile Makgalemele commended this development which she says is very important as it takes the event to the people. "Airing the event live helps us to motivate as many students as we can to see this project achieve its intended purpose and blossom to greater heights," noted Makgalemele with emphasis. She went on to commend DBS for always coming to the party and giving the event the much needed publicity through their radio stations and television programmes.

The live coverage also gave Annual Excellence Awards sponsors mileage and this will go a long way in retaining them and getting other sponsors on board.

The event programme lasted two hours from 2pm to 4pm on the 13th of July at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC) and aired smoothly by Btv for the entire 120 minutes without any technical glitches.

BEC Employees Donate to Gweta



Kgosi Kelethobogile Baatholeng of Gweta



Village Development Committee Chairperson Mr. Ledule Baraki expressing gratitude on behalf of Gweta residents.



BEC Corporate Communications Managers Fingile Makgalemele delivering a message of hope to the Gweta Community.

By Lesego Ntuluki

Botswana Examinations Council employees have once again displayed of compassion, as they contributed money to assist the Gweta floods victims.

The BEC employees showed they cared and made contributions amounting to Six Thousand Seven Hundred Pula (P6, 700.00) and the Council topped it with Three Thousand Three Hundred Pula (P3, 300.00) to make it P10, 000.00 (Ten Thousand Pula) in total. The money was used to purchase sets of pots as the village authorities had indicated that most victims did not have kitchen utensils.

On the 12th of June 2017 the Corporate Communications Division embarked on a trip Gweta to present the pots worth P10 000 to the flood victims.

Kgosi Kelethobogile Baatholeng in his welcome remarks noted that though

it has been a while since the floods wrecked havoc, their journey to recovery seems to be a long one.

“We are pleased to know that fellow countrymen have us in their thoughts and prayers,” he acknowledged.

Kgosi Baatholeng said having visitors regardless of what they bring comforts the villagers and restores their hope. As he continued to narrate the tragedy he kept pausing to keep his overwhelming emotions under control.

Different speakers at the event including the VDC Chairperson Mr. Ledule Baraki and VET Chairperson Mr. David Kgosimore expressed gratitude and advised that those who will benefit from the BEC donation should treasure it. Representing the Tutume Sub District council was Ms. Gaone Mosarwe who also emphasised that the village was still in need of help to get over the hardships caused by the floods.

Mr. Kgosimore informed the BEC team that about 16 families were left without

accommodation. “We are expecting tents from Red Cross but it doesn’t substitute the need for permanent structures,” he noted. His cry for help was given weight by Mr. Baraki who suggested that if they could have donations of cement and other building materials they could make interlocking bricks and use them to build permanent structures as using interlocking bricks is a much cheaper way of building.

When handing over the pots Corporate Communications Division Manager Ms. Fingile Makgalemele told the Gweta residents that their cry for help touched BEC Executive Secretary Prof. Brain Mokopakgosi who pleaded with his staff employees who sacrificed their own money to offer some help to the needy.

She further said their concerns have been noted and advised the community to keep knocking on the business community doors where they will eventually get help.



Representative from Tutume Sub District Ms. Gaone Mosarwe appealed for more help as the village is yet to recover from the damage caused by the floods.



A village elder offering blessings in appreciation of the donation.



Gweta villagers came in numbers to receive the donation.

Online Registration and Payment grows in leaps and bounds



Data Processing Manager Mr. Oduetse Setlhare says candidates should embrace the online registration and payment technologies as it can save them a great deal of time and money.

By Otsile R. Tapson

In an effort to improve customer service as well as improving access to products and services, Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) solidified its partnership with Orange Botswana and First National Bank Botswana (FNBB) for the continued online payment of Botswana General Certificate of Secondary School (BGCSE) Examination.

In an interview with Maduo, BEC's Data Processing Manager, Mr. Oduetse Setlhare said private candidates were first accorded the opportunity of electronic payment in 2015 when BEC partnered with Orange Botswana to enable candidates to pay for their fees using Orange Money.

Setlhare said in 2015, they were 12422 private candidates, and of this figure only 32 candidates utilised the online registration and payment methods. "It has to be noted though that although 32 candidates who registered and paid using online facilities in 2015 seems to represent a very small fraction of the private candidates, the majority of the candidates registered through BOCODOL and therefore using a different process," added Setlhare.

Commenting on the partnership, FNBB Head of Electronic Solutions, Gao Mokobi said they were elated to partner with BEC on this project. He said FNBB aspire to be a leading bank in provision of electronic solutions and they are constantly on the forefront of innovation to bring cutting edge technology to their customers and online examination payment is one such innovation. "Our e-solutions channels are tried and tested. We are proud to be the pioneers of these services. We understand customers' needs to be in control; of their banking and we work steadfastly on ensuring the best experience for our customers", said Mokobi.

For her part, Public Relations and Foundation Manager at Orange Botswana, Boga Chilinde-Masebu, said Orange prides itself in leading the market with new and innovative ways, which can improve the lives of the customers through the provision of excellent and convenient service, especially in the arena of financial inclusion. "Through Orange Money service, our customers are able to make cash deposits or withdrawals and money transfers to anyone in Botswana,"

said Masebu. She expressed delight at the partnership between BEC and Orange for the payment of examinations using Orange Money.

Mr. Setlhare said that in 2016, the online facility was extended to the Junior Certificate Examination with additional enhancements. Another partnership was also hatched between BEC and FNBB. For the 2016 cycle, Setlhare said there was an improvement in the use of the online registration and payment using online facilities. He said 10391 candidates, representing both JCE and BGCSE registered for examinations in 2016. Of this figure, 5755 registered using the Malepa online facility and a total of 339 paid using online payment representing 236 candidates who paid using FNBB payment platform and 103 using Orange Money platform.

Mr. Setlhare further added that there was a notable improvement in the candidates using the online facility, attributing this to vigorous marketing strategies employed by BEC using social media platforms and other communication platforms such as radio and print media.

When commenting on the challenges, Setlhare said some students displayed lack of understanding of the registration process. "There are scores of students who registered online but failed to complete the registration process. The majority of candidates who used this facility, used it from the Internet Cafés and as such the internet connectivity was poor resulting to frustrations and leading to submissions of multiple entries thus creating duplicates", added Setlhare. Other challenges experienced according to Setlhare were lack of awareness on the Online Registration by candidates as well as lack of computer awareness skills.

BEC Strengthen its Stakeholder Engagement

By Karabo Morule

The 21st to the 27th August 2017 was a week of great opportunities for Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) as its Communications Team participated in the Botswana Consumer Fair. The BEC stall no. 48 & 49 which was situated in Ditshupo Hall was very accessible to stakeholders as it was located along the main route to other activities.

The week was spent disseminating a vast amount of information to stakeholders of all levels and receiving feedback. Real time responses made it easier for stakeholders to relax and ask many questions which ensured the BEC Team that the information would reach even the people that are connected to those visiting the stall. Most of the questions focused around the areas of certification, registration, external examinations and the BEC mandate. Many of the stakeholders expressed appreciation at BEC being at the consumer Fair as it made BEC more visible to them. Questions surrounding the upcoming examinations were also prominent as many wished to find out how they could best prepare for examinations.

The Annual Excellence Awards as well proved to be a hit with younger stakeholders as many came to the stall to ask how they could become recipients and made requests for the Excellence Awards booklets.

During the fair judges visited stalls and interviewed the Communications team. Although BEC did not secure a place in the top three it still won because it engaged with its stakeholders and increased awareness of its mandate.



Assistant Corporate Communications Officer Lesego Ntuluki interacting with stakeholders during the fair.

Coates Urges BEC to go the E-Marking Route



Mr Patrick Coates presenting to BEC Staff on E-Marking

By Charles Keikotlhae

E-Assessment Consultant from the United Kingdom (UK) based organisation RM Results, Mr Patrick Coates has implored Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) to go the E-Marking route.

Presenting on RM Results to BEC recently, Mr Coates stated that RM Results is a global leader in high stakes examination E-Marking, one of the e-assessment pioneers in the United Kingdom (UK), with over ten years' experience.

He stated that RM Assessor E-Marking tool can do marking on any device capability and said that every year they mark 200 million examinations pages for over 150 countries. Mr. Coates said that they can take content from any scanning device or any other file format, the consultant said. RM Assessor is available as a full service with scanning, helpdesk and session support or as a licensed software.

The UK E-Assessment Consultant pointed out that RM Results' integration engine enables smooth integration with other solution partner platforms and is hosted in Microsoft Azure. He said it is available and is replicated in different regions.

Mr. Coates said that completed examinations are sent to a scanning supplier where a booklet spine is cut and fed through a scanner with 800 images per minute and 300 dpi standard. The scanned examinations are then sent to RM Assessor via web services. RM Results clients include Cambridge Assessment, International Baccalaureate, Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA), Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Department for Education in the UK.

BEC gears for ISO 9001:2015 Certification



Compliance and Quality Assurance Manager Mr. Mothusi Ntau says BEC needs to move quickly to make a transition from ISO 9001:2008 to ISO 9001:2015

By Keoitse P. Mogotsi

On the 18th August 2017 the Compliance and Quality Assurance (CQA) Division hosted a change Friday session to share with the BEC staff the need for transition and to attain ISO 9001:2015 Certification.

During the session Compliance and Quality Assurance Manager Mr. Mothusi Ntau told BEC staff that after September 2018, the ISO 9001:2008 will be invalid therefore will no longer be recognised internationally. He said it took BEC eight (8) years to obtain the ISO 9001:2008 certificate and it is upon BEC staff to make it possible for BEC to attain the ISO 9001:2015 certification within one (1) year.

He further said that for BEC to maintain the ISO 9001:2008 certificate, internal audits will be conducted from time to time and audit findings will need to be closed without undue delays. Management reviews will also have to be conducted as planned, just to mention but a few.

The first Surveillance Audit by BOBS was conducted on the 28th August to the 30th August 2017. This audit took place in order to systematically evaluate whether the BEC Quality Management System (QMS) is implemented as documented to determine conformance to the requirements of BOS ISO 9001:2008 Standard.

The results of the audit showed that BEC is working hard to maintain the ISO 9001:2008 certificate as only four general comments were made together with at least seven (7) commendations and eight (8) areas of improvement. There were fifteen (15) non-conformities, only one (1) recorded as major and fourteen (14) minor ones raised during the audit.

Ntau further highlighted that ISO 9001:2015 places more emphasis on leadership and management commitment. "The top management now has to take more responsibility for the effectiveness of the quality management system", he noted.

He said the implementation of the new standard comes with 'Risks and Opportunities' and BEC will be required to determine, consider and where necessary take action to address risks and opportunities that might influence its QMS's ability to deliver conformance or adversely impact customer satisfaction.

BEC will be required to take risk-based approach to determine the type and extent of controls appropriate for external providers as a way to control externally provided products and services.

He said benefits of ISO 9001:2015 are greatly leadership engagement, risk-based thinking for achieving an effective quality management system, ability to address supply chain management more effectively, improved communications, morale, job satisfaction and better customer service.

BEC Excellence Awards in Pictures



His Excellency the President Lt. Gen. Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama giving a keynote address at the awards ceremony.



Golden Star recipient Kago Motsoma giving a speech on how he managed to be the country's brightest star.



Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology Dr. Alfred Madigele presenting St. Arnold's English Medium College with an Award for being the best PTA school for PLSE.



Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology Dr. Alfred Madigele presenting Nanogang JSS with an Award for being the best PTA school for JCE.



Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology Dr. Alfred Madigele presenting St. Joseph's College with an Award for being the best PTA school for BGCSE.



Kago Motsoma with his family and teachers posing for a 'Presidential Selfie'.



Family and friends of South Korean BGCSE Top achiever Yohan Jeong.



BGCSE Top Achievers networking with Minister of Basic Education Dr. Unity Dow.



Botswana Defence Force band entertaining guests.



BEC Executive Secretary Prof. Brian Mokopagosi giving the welcome remarks and an overview of the Excellence Awards.



BEC choir entertaining the audience.

BEC Excellence Awards in Pictures



Dimension Data Human Resource Manager, Dineo Letshwiti presenting an award to one of the JCE Top Achievers.



Orange Botswana Director Corporate Affairs Ms. Lepata Mafa presenting an award to Legodile Mosenene for BGCSE top achiever (Special needs - Visual impairment)



Minister of Basic Education presenting The Ministerial Award to Susan Agatha Charlie of Mater Spei College.



His Excellency the President Lt. Gen Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama presenting Kago Motsoma with his award.



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Basic Education presenting an award to one of the PSLE recipients.



BEC Chairperson Dr. Joseph Tsonope presenting the Chairperson Award to Refilwe Kebabireng of St. Joseph's College.



Invited guests during the award ceremony.



Ame Makoba directing the day's proceedings.



Stanbic Head of Marketing Stephanie Stoneham presenting an award to Yohan Jeong of Naledi Senior Secondary School.

Malawian Ministry of Basic Education benchmarking



Executive Secretary Prof. Brian Mokopakgosi briefing the Malawian officials on the BEC mandate.



Malawian delegation posing for a group picture with BEC senior management after the benchmarking mission.

By Charles Keikotlhae

A team of ten Malawi Ministry of Basic Education Officials paid Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) a visit on the 22nd August 2017 as well as part of their counterpart, Botswana Ministry of Basic Education benchmarking mission.

Leader of the team, Deputy Director in the Malawi Ministry of Basic Education Ms. Ellen Simango told the BEC Management that they saw it fit to include the Council amongst the institutions they were to visit during their benchmarking mission in Botswana.

The Botswana Examinations Council Executive Secretary Professor Brian Mokopakgosi told the Malawi delegation that he believes the role which BEC Plays is similar to that of the Malawi Examinations Council; that they both provide feedback to the education systems in their respective countries. He explained that BEC was established in 2002 as a body corporate with 14 Council (Board) Members inclusive of the Executive Secretary to conduct school examinations in the primary and secondary sub-sectors and any other examination on behalf of the ministry of Basic Education and issues certificates in respect of such examinations.

Professor Mokopakgosi stated that BEC Is expected to contribute to national efforts such as the Education and Training Strategic Sector Plan and Vision 2036. He explained that the Council is made up of seven directorates with a staff complement of 230 and about 5500 short term contract employees engaged during examinations period mostly teachers for amongst others, invigilation, marking and moderation.

The BEC Executive Secretary further told the Malawi team that BEC runs one test and three examinations being the Standard Four Attainment Test, Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE), Junior Certificate Examination (JCE) and the Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE). He said that normally there are about thirty six thousand (36000) candidates for PSLE and between thirty eight (38 000) and forty thousand (40 000) candidates for both the JCE and BGCSE.

Mokopakgosi explained that BEC provides feedback to the education system in Botswana through comparability studies such as the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) as well as

Comprehensive Results Analysis. He said that the results of such researches are always shared with key relevant stakeholders.

The Executive Secretary also informed the Malawians that BEC currently has four strategic projects namely; Botswana National Examinations Processing System (BNEPS) II, BEC Transformation, Botswana Educational Achievement Monitor (BEAM) and ISO 9001: 2008 in transition to ISO 9001: 2015, adding that BEC is currently the only ISO 9001:2008 Certified Examinations Council/body in the region.

While he acknowledged that BNEPS II had some teething problems, he pointed out that as an achievement the system is now processing all the three levels; PSLE, JCE and BGCSE since it started operating in 2012.

On BEAM, Mokopakgosi told the Malawi Ministry of Basic Education Officials that the project would add to efforts by SACMEQ, TIMMS and PIRLS but as a local initiative aimed at guiding Botswana towards the development of the required Human Capital. Amongst challenges facing BEC he highlighted lack of connectivity especially in primary schools which is a hinderance to BNEPS performance, the



Head of Malawian delegate Ms. Ellen Simango

delay in passing the BEC Transformation Bill, examinations malpractice and lack of facilities to process examinations.

He said that BEC has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Botswana Defense Force (BDF) and Botswana Police Services (BPS) to assist here and there during national examinations should need arise. Some of the questions asked by the visitors was on whether BEC interface with other stakeholders rather than the Ministry of Basic Education and how responsive is the Ministry to BEC feedback?

Responding to the first question, the BEC Director of Examinations Administration and Certification Ms. Dorcas Morake stated that BEC indeed interact with a host of stakeholders such as the Department of Teacher Training and Development especially when it comes to training teachers on assessment syllabuses.

On the question of how responsive the ministry is to BEC feedback, Professor Mokopakgosi stated that the feedback is publicly acknowledged but that due to a number of factors implementation is not always what is desired.

The Resurrection of BEC Choir



BEC choir serenading the audience at one of the BEC functions.

By Keoitse P. Mogotsi

Choral music is increasingly becoming a common feature in the entertainment industry. These days we see many groups of choirs emerging as a way of making money or for entertainment.

The President of the Republic of Botswana His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama is also encouraging Botswana to unleash their talents.

He has since included the Choral music category under the Annual Constituency Competitions where the best choirs are rewarded with thousands of Pula. BEC is not left behind in this trend as the Council's Choir has made a strong come back, after a long break.

At the beginning of this year we saw the BEC Choir resurrected after a few years of being inactive. According to the Choir Assistant Conductor Mr. Tiro Sethebethe, the Choir was formed on the 1st of November, 2006, during the long term vision 2016 initial stage, when public examinations and assessment were still conducted by Examinations Research and Testing Division (ERTD) under the then Ministry of Education. Mr. Sethebethe clearly remembers the ERTD staff members walking from Sir Seretse Khama Barracks in Mogoditshane to the National Stadium. He said on their way they started singing and that's when they noticed that they have

singing talent. He continued to say that when they got back to work after the Vision 2016 walk, they sat down and strategised the way forward about the choir and that's when they saw the need to form the Choir.

Mr. Sethebethe further said the choir was invited to perform at the then Chief Education Officer - Mrs. Charakupa's farewell party which was organised by Ministry of Education at President Hotel. The Choir also performed during the BEC logo launch which took place at Phakalane Golf Estate in 2007 and at the first BEC Annual Excellence Awards which were held in May 2010.

According to Mr. Sethebethe, the Choir however died a slow death only to resurrect at the beginning of this year when it was invited to partake in BEC ISO certification celebrations held on the 19th May, 2017. The choir has since made four appearances this year. Their second performance was at the BEC Strategy Roll Out session which was held at Lion Park on the 24th May 2017, at the 8th Annual Excellence Awards which were held at Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC) on 13th July, 2017 where the Honourable Minister of Basic Education Dr. Unity Dow applauded their sterling performance, and the last performance was at TIMSS Dissemination conference on the 17th October 2017.

Strategy Roll-Out Session



Senior Procurement Officer Ms. Tukuni Chifani opening with a word of prayer.



Executive Secretary Prof. Brian Mokopakgosi addressing staff at the strategy rollout.



Office of Strategy Manager, Mrs. Maipelo Sealetsa giving the overview of the BEC strategy roadmap.

By Karabo Morule

From the Beginning of April, the BEC five year strategy which was at its midpoint in its implementation, was reviewed thoroughly to cater for the current changes that have taken place in the sector, at national and international levels.

This was done through a number of workshops including the Board Retreat where approval of the reviewed strategy was made. The final approval of the Corporate Scorecard was on the 23rd May 2017 which is to be followed by cascading to all Directorates and ultimately individuals where staff will be developing and signing their

Performance Agreements.

Prior to cascading the Corporate Scorecard, Management took a decision to have a Strategy Roll-out Session on the 24th May, 2017 where all BEC staff was taken to Lion's Park, where these changes were shared with them. This was also an opportunity for staff to team build and get some motivation to gear up for completing the remaining two years of the strategy. The Roll-out session had everybody high-strung about the activity to the point where even the BEC choir had prepared musical pieces specifically for the session.

The Executive Secretary inspired and

motivated employees to embrace changes that come with the BEC Strategy as it contributes to continual improvement within the organisation. Presentations were made by different members of the management team to demonstrate the impact of the Strategy on BEC operations and this created open dialogue with the audience to improve understanding.

Team building exercises included racing and problem solving in teams distinguished by different coloured bandanas. The atmosphere was that of eagerness and anticipation of great things to come. The day was a great success with all planned activities achieved.



Behavioural change and motivational coach Mrs. Thandi Malebang giving a mindset change motivational talk.



BEC Choir entertaining the audience.



BEC staff partaking in the team development activities as part of the days proceedings.

Accreditation of the BGCSE by Cambridge International Examinations (CIE)

By Charles Keikotlhae



Driving the Accreditation process, Product Development and Standard Director Mrs. Susan Makgothi

The week of the 10th to 14th April 2017 proved to be extremely important to the Botswana Examinations Council (BEC). The Directorate of Product Development and Standards through the Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) Division retreated for five days in a bid to re-align their procedure forms to the University of Cambridge International Examinations Accreditation Standards for Public Assessment Bodies.

The standards are organised in six sections and each focuses on one aspect of the work of an assessment organisation and contains a varying number of standards. BEC is expected to be able to demonstrate how each standard is shown in its own practice. Accreditation is the process in which a certification of competency, authority, or credibility is issued.

Organisations that issue credentials or certify third parties against official standards are themselves formally accredited by accreditation bodies such as University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES). BEC, like any other examination body has made a partnership with CIE. The CIE requirements of the standards are tailored to BEC's unique operations and

based on International best practice, their long experience of working on a range of varied projects, International research from Cambridge Assessment and the University of Cambridge. Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) works in partnership with governments and national education organisations around the world to review, design and develop curriculum programmes, assessment models and approaches to teaching and learning. Their long history of collaborating successfully with ministries of education started over 100 years ago with Mauritius, Singapore and Brunei.

Today, they continue to provide national examinations services to ministries and deliver innovative solutions that are especially tailored to the countries' local context. They provide all the supporting services needed to implement education development programmes successfully.

It is well understood that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to changes in education. CIE hence recommends achievable and effective solutions that bring about tangible improvements in education. CIE works with BEC to offer a range of development approaches and to implement changes locally while making sure that they are effective.

Currently CIE is working with BEC to establish working practices and procedures for the long term and help to develop expertise. CIE helps to develop the necessary knowledge and skills in the Botswana Examinations Council's BGCSE division through moderation of some processes for compliance with the accreditation requirement so that they can operate independently of them. They earlier developed BEC's capacity through face-to-face training, online training, on-the-job training and are continuing to do.

Dow applauds Excellence Awards partners

By Lesego Ntuluki

The Minister of Basic Education (MoBE) Honourable. Dr. Unity Dow has applauded the BEC in Collaboration with MoBE Annual Excellence Awards partners for seeing the event through once again.

BEC in collaboration with MoBE held the 8th Annual Excellence Awards at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC), where a total of thirty seven (37) students were recognised for their sterling performance in the 2016 examinations. After presenting the Ministerial Award to the second best student in the BGCSE category the Minister went back to the podium to give a vote of thanks.

Hon. Dow in her speech said, it is through the many hands involved in the event that the Ministry through BEC is able to celebrate the achievements of the students. "This starts right from home, with the dedicated parents that encourage and provide for these young minds, the teachers who guide and bring out the potential in these leaders of tomorrow, the communities and community leaders who ensure conducive learning environments both within and out of schools" she noted.

Dow went on to thank the business community saying it is their support of initiatives such as this one that gives her Ministry confidence that the (five) 5 year education strategy ETSSP, which is in its second year will translate into tangible results. "Putting together an event of such a nature requires resources, and again today the private sector has come to the party, literally," as she praised the event sponsors. The Minister went on to highlight that the business community's efforts in giving back to the society through education is very visible as they have embraced the adopt a school programme. "We have seen positive responses from individuals, corporates and civil society as they adopt our various schools and improve greatly the learning environments" she said to applause of the crowd.

The Minister capped her short but on point speech with a word of encouragement to the recipients. She challenged them to keep on flying and know that there is no limit to their endless potential.

Ministry of Basic Education Launched



Minister of Basic Education Hon. Dr. Unity Dow unveiling the mandate.

By Otsile R. Tapson

The 24th of August 2017 will go down in history as a special day in education as it marked the launch of Ministry of Basic Education (MoBE). The event, held under the theme 'Delivering the 21st century education learner' took place at Masa Primary School in Gaborone. Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) which is the sole parastatal under the new ministry, was represented by its Board Chairperson Dr. Joseph Tsonope and Executive Secretary Prof. Brian Mokopakgosi.

In his welcome remarks, the area Chief, Kgosi Rammala applauded the Ministry for choosing Masa for the launch of this historic event, saying it was a testimony that the Ministry values them as stakeholders of paramount importance. He added that it was befitting for such an event to be staged at Masa Primary as it was one of the excelling schools in the country.

BEC Executive Secretary, Prof. Brian Mokopakgosi delivered a message on the Evolution of Education in Botswana on behalf of Former Assistant Minister of Education Mrs. Moggie Mbaakanyi. Mokopakgosi said Botswana's education can be traced back to 1840 when The London Missionary Society (LMS) opened schools in Kolobeng, Shoshong, Ramotswa and Mochudi. This was later followed by other missions notably the Roman Catholic, The Anglicans and the Seventh Adventists at the beginning of the nineteenth century. He went on to say the education system evolved from two major reforms; being the National Policy on Education of 1977, Education for Social Harmony or (*Education for Kagisano*) which was aimed at making education available to a much wider section of the population. He pointed out that its strategy was to give priority to quantitative and qualitative improvements in primary education; provision of nine years of basic education and a re-orientation of the curriculum to embody the cardinal national principles being development, self-reliance and social justice, and to emphasise acquisition of basic knowledge and skills needed



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Basic Education Mrs. Grace Muzila giving the overview of the Transformation Agenda

for national development.

Mokopakgosi further said another major reform in Botswana's Education systems was the Revised National Policy on Education (RNPE) which was launched in 1994. This according to Mokopakgosi was a significant legislation as it focused on investment in human resources for national development, and the development of moral and social values, cultural identity and self-esteem, good citizenship and desirable work ethics. Among the key issues identified for successful educational development under the RNPE was the improvement and maintenance of the quality of education at all levels, Mokopakgosi pointed out.

When giving the overview of MoBE, a 2011 BGCSE Top Achiever and Ministerial Award recipient Mr. Kaone Disepo said, the Ministry has a mission to provide an empowering learning environment that thrives for excellence in service delivery. He added that the idea of basic education has evolved over the years to move with the times and technological changes. "Education is no longer just about books, no longer just about learning how to read and write. A 21st century learner is the one that is fully rounded, proactive, ambitious and passionate and can adapt to the everchanging lives dynamics" he quipped.

Ministry of Basic Education Permanent Secretary Mrs. Grace Muzila gave an overview of the Transformation Agenda. She focused on the Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan (ETSSP 2015-2020). She said ETSSP marks a significant milestone in our collective efforts as a nation to bring about a more diversified, knowledge-based economy. Muzila stated that this will be achieved through a planned and careful development of human capital, refocusing education and training towards fulfilment of social and economic aspirations identified in the Revised National Policy on Education (RNPE), the National Development Plan, Vision 2036 and as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MGD's). She said ETSSP will facilitate improved outcomes for all learners by addressing



Former BGCSE Top Achiever Mr Kaone Disepo giving overview of the Ministry of Basic Education.



Area Member of Parliament Advocate Duma Boko giving a Vote of Thanks.

issues of quality, relevance, access, inclusion, equity and accountability across the entire sector, from pre-Primary school to Tertiary level.

When unveiling the new mandate, the Minister of Basic Education Dr. Unity Dow praised the Government of Botswana for what she termed 'massive investment in education'. She pointed out that the government has shown an overwhelming and unwavering commitment to the development of the country's education system. "In 1965, our national education budget was a one million, six hundred thousand and eight hundred Rands (R1 600, 800) of which (one million, two hundred thousand Rands) R1 200 000 was contributed by the government and (four hundred thousand and eight hundred Rands) R400 800 was contributed by the tribal administration", she added. She commended the former Ministers of Education, such as Ben C. Thema and Kebatlamang Morake who were the country's first Education Ministers during the formative years for laying a solid foundation for the country's education system to thrive. She said today the education sector in Botswana is given the lion's share of the annual national budget of over P10 billion (Ten Billion Pula). This she said was the government's commitment of ensuring all

Batswana have access to quality education which will in turn contribute to sustainable economic growth through improved productivity of the workforce. She added that the country has come a long way from nine (9) secondary schools in 1965 to 208 Junior Secondary Schools and 32 Senior Secondary Schools with a combined enrolment of over 80 000 students as of 2015.

Area Member of Parliament for Gaborone/Bonnington South Honourable Duma Boko praised the government for its effort of ensuring the country's younger generation have access to quality education. He emphasised that education is about allowing 'critical intellect to be displayed and enacted'. Giving the Vote of thanks, he said the talent displayed by the students when reciting poems was a testimony that the future of the country was very bright.

The launch was graced by Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Education Hon. Wynter Mmolotsi, Attorney General Advocate Abraham Keetshabe, senior governments officials, heads of diplomatic missions, teacher union representatives, visiting delegation from Ministry of Basic Education in Malawi, parents, teachers and students from Gaborone and neighbouring regions.



Japan Ambassador to Botswana His Excellency Masa-hiro Onishi with BEC Board Chairperson Dr. Joseph Tsonope.

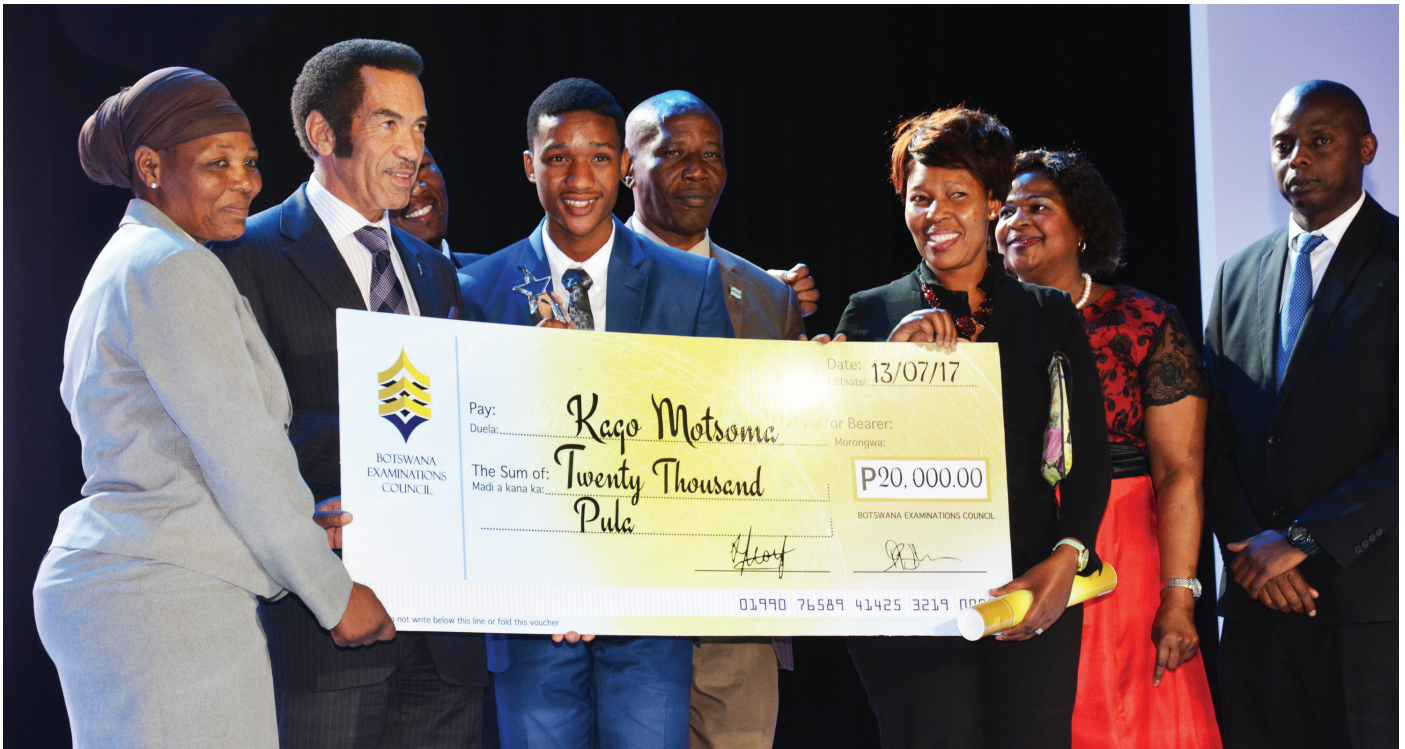


Executive Secretary Prof. B. Mokopakgosi with Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Education Hon. Wynter Mmolotsi.



Dignitaries touring the stall setup by students from various schools from the the South East region.

Meet the Golden Star who was “not spared the rod”



Kago's parents, teachers and St. Joseph's College management receiving a cheque of P20 000.00 from President Lt. Gen Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama

By Lesego Ntuluki

Molepolole born Kago Motsoma, like many traditionally raised children knows very well the meaning of the long standing saying that goes 'spare the rod and spoil the child.'

During his upbringing, his parents used the cane to put him back on the straight and narrow whenever he veered off. He is now grateful to one particular beating that drove him all the way to the summit as he leads the pack of over 40,000 students who sat for Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) in 2016. "My parents beat me to read," confessed the 8th Excellence Awards Golden Star. It is this beating that cultivated the culture of reading in him; at standard three he already conformed to a study timetable.

Kago does not only have the cane to thank for his achievement, staying with his grandmother also moulded him into a responsible person at a very young age. With a smile he looks at the skies as he paints the beautiful picture of him staying with his grandmother when he was doing standard four and five. It was just the two of them and his granny was old and did not have much strength to do household chores and the then ten (10) year old boy knew he had to step up to the challenging task of taking care of both of them. "We collected fire wood and I also had to do other house chores, coupled with my school work," he narrates. Difficult as it sounds he recalls it all with a smile; it's definitely the good old days. He shakes his head with disbelief to the reality

that he amassed nine A* and an A from his ten subjects after all that seemingly made the mission impossible.

The former St. Joseph's College student surprised his teachers with his performance. Kago though a top excellent student he was not the best nor the second best. Mrs. Bontekanye Galeitsiwe his Head of House did not waste time in admitting that Kago did not top her wish list though he always told her he is going to surprise her. "He was always jolly and laughing so I didn't think he meant his words," she joyfully shared. Despite his lively humour, Galeitsiwe also remembers Kago as a committed student who always voluntarily wiped the chalk board for the next lesson.

Mr. France Rankgomo who was Kago's Class Teacher also remembers him as a jolly person but reserved.

"He was easy going and always had a smile," he observed. Unlike many excellent students Kago didn't shy away from the responsibility of being a Prefect and take part in extracurricular activities. "He was actually a good table tennis player" Mr. Rankgomo attested.

The School Deputy Head Mr. Herbet Setume hails Kago's success to the strategies that the school has put in place to ensure academic excellence of the students and the school as a collective. Close monitoring and supervision of the school's learning processes makes the arsenal used by the school in pursuit of academic excellence.

"Our school teachers know that they must meet their targets," he revealed. Though the school remains locked on the first position as the best performing school, he says their percentage pass is still below par: His superior Ms. Constance Male lauds the reigning discipline in the school for helping students like Kago perform to their best capabilities. "Our students guard jealously the reigning discipline because you cannot get good results with an indisciplined lot," she cautioned with pride.

Kago did not only promise to surprise his teachers but also his mother. Even before her lips could confess that she still has anxiety she long caught when results were released, Lankie Motsoma's body language is so loud. "I always took him lightly when he said he is going to surprise me," she shared as she shakes her head with disbelief.

Though unbelievable, Kago's success story was inevitable. Above the hard work he put in his studies he is a disciplined child who has always shown traits of natural intelligence from a young age. "He always showed a good understanding of concepts while he was still a toddler," said the proud mother. A jolly playful character that Kago is, he still knows when to shelve the comedy and when to pull it out. His mother has nothing but praise for his utmost discipline as she reveals that he is a very good babysitter and has no match when it comes to baking setswana traditional scones Diphaphatha; a skill he inherited from his grandmother. So rooted is the young man

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Kago

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such that he always reminds his mother they must make visiting the fields a habit. "He confused a mortar for a calabash in a test and he blamed my lack of interest in traditional life," she noted. It was then that she started helping him read Setswana literature and explained whatever the inquisitive boy did not understand, their team work was not in vain as he got an A* in Setswana.

Kago saved his pocket money to buy internet bundles to help him do some research on the internet. His advice to students aspiring to emulate him is that they should take responsibility of their studies and make sacrifices, especially cutting off things that do not matter much to a student's life like television and social media. Aerobic Engineering is a profession Kago wishes to pursue. He says he wants to bridge the gap and reckons it can be used to improve farming technology and see the country's economy improve.

The humble child he is, Kago feels obliged to thank the Ramotswa Community who supported him and always gave him words of wisdom. "The Ramotswa community treated me like one of their own, indeed a child is raised by a village," he acknowledged.



Kago has a record of good performance as seen in his picture with the family.

BEC donates Sporting Equipment to Mantshwabisi

By Keoitse P. Mogotsi

Studies show that engaging in sports activities helps students to improve their performance in school work, as well as physical well-being. However, kids also need the proper equipment to enjoy these benefits. On the 24th November 2017, the Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) as a way of broadening its Corporate Social Responsibility donated sporting equipment to Mantshwabisi Primary School.

Speaking at the ceremony the Acting Corporate Communications Manager, Mr. Otsile Tapson took the audience through the project overview. He said in 2014 the then Minister of Education and Skills Development, His Honour the Vice President Mr. Mokgweetsi Masisi visited the school and found it in an appalling condition. He then appealed to the nation and companies to assist Mantshwabisi Primary School with school uniforms, solar powered educational devices, sporting equipment and lockers. BEC representatives then met with the former school principal Ms. Kesetsenao Bojase who said during school holidays boarding students are transported to their respective homes and taken back when the new academic term resumes, but some do not show up to resume their studies after school holidays. He said Ms. Bojase said this might be due to lack of recreational facilities in the school to keep the student busy and not to get home sick easily. Bojase also said students would tear up their mattresses in an attempt to make soccer balls, an act that exacerbated vandalism.

One of the initiatives that BEC came up with was writing proposals to the business community on behalf of Mantshwabisi Primary School to solicit sponsorships outlining challenges faced by the school. Some companies came to the party by helping this school directly after the BEC in partnership with the school's plea. After assessing all the challenges, BEC focused on Lack of recreational facilities which was labeled one of the stressing issues at Mantshwabisi Primary School hence this effort to donate sporting equipment.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of BEC Professor Brian
To Page 20 ➤



Mantshwabisi Primary School School Head expressed gratitude to BEC's gesture



Acting Corporate Communications Manager Mr. Otsile R. Tapson giving the overview of the CSR project.



Mantshwabisi School Head Ms. Sethunya Mmusi receiving the sporting equipment from the BEC Executive Secretary Prof. Brian Mokopakgosi.



Mantshwabisi village Councillor giving vote of thanks.

Mantshwabisi

◀ From Page 21

Mokopakgosi said, research findings have shown a direct correlation between physical activity and academic performance. He said students who are involved in sports activities perform better than those students who had never participated in sports.

Professor Mokopakgosi highlighted that BEC administer three examinations which are PSLE, JCE and BGCSE and that soon it will be conducting vocational schools/college examinations. He said apart from running examinations, the organisation also conduct national researches on the country's education. He told the Mantshwabisi community that BEC also stages Annual Excellence Awards where best top ten students from each basic education level (PSLE, JCE and BGCSE) are given awards. These awards motivate students to work hard in their studies. He said it can be very to good to see Mantshwabisi Primary School students receiving these awards in future as this is possible.

The Executive Secretary said teachers and parents should not be discouraged by poor academic performance of students as they can bring change in their children's lives.

The donated equipment included soccer post and nets, netball posts and nets, volleyball posts and nets, netball balls, volleyball balls, soccer balls, soccer net, netball posts, set of twelve volleyball kit for boys and girls each, a set of Netball kit for ten, a set of football kit for 14 and shorts and goalkeeper set.

Mokopakgosi said he hopes that the equipment will contribute to the improvement of school results and the physical well being of the students.

The equipment was received by the school principal Ms. Sethunya Mmusi on behalf of the school during the handing over ceremony. She expressed gratitude to Botswana Examinations Council for their efforts and generosity stating that their donation is an excellent example of partnership in education and sports.

She said this aid came at a time when the Mantshwabisi students are doing excellently in sports, and promised that they will take care and make good use of the sport equipment and attires.

The event was graced by Kgosi Tsiang of Mantshwabisi village, Mantshwabisi Councillor, Lethakane Regional Chief Education Officer, Mantshwabisi Primary School members of Parents and Teachers Association and Mantshwabisi community at large. The school traditional dance and polka group made remarkable performances during the event.

The equipment is expected to impact the lives of Mantshwabisi Primary School students.



BEC staff setting up the soccer poles at Mantshwabisi Primary School.



Mantshwabisi Primary School traditional dance entertaining the guests at the handover.



Mantshwabisi Primary School soccer team battling it out with Sirinane Primary School during a friendly encounter.

BEC signs MoU with Teachers' Unions



Representatives from BOSETU and BTU with Prof. Brian Mokopakgosi signing the Memorandum of Understanding.



BOSETU Secretary General Mr. Tobokani Rari

By Lesego Ntuluki

In a bid to strengthen its relationship with stakeholders the Botswana Examinations Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with teachers' unions Botswana Teachers Union (BTU) and Botswana Sectors of Education and Teachers Union (BOSETU).

The agreement is seen by both parties as a gateway to a more conducive environment suitable for working together and help each other on delivering their mandates. BOSETU Secretary General Tobokani Rari applauded the move by the three parties saying it will now create a platform for them to engage on issues affecting teachers. Rari explained that teachers are not employees of BEC though the examinations body seasonally engages them, and by virtue of not being the Council's employees it was not possible for trade unions to have a direct relationship with BEC on employer-employee issues concerning teachers. "With this memorandum of understanding now we have created platform to seat and discuss matters between BEC and teachers," said Rari. He expressed gratitude to BEC management for what he says is a ground-breaking relationship.

BTU Deputy President Gotlamang Oitsile echoed Rari's sentiments. "It is very important for stakeholders to engage for peaceful and meaningful relations," he emphasised. BEC Executive Secretary Prof. Brian Mokopakgosi's remarks intertwined with the two union representatives' words. "The relations have always been cordial with lots of mutual respect but there was need for a formal platform of engagement," he said.

The signing of the MoU was followed by a radio interview on a live talk show on Duma Fm with representatives from all the three parties represented and taking calls and comments from the listeners who applauded the BEC decision.

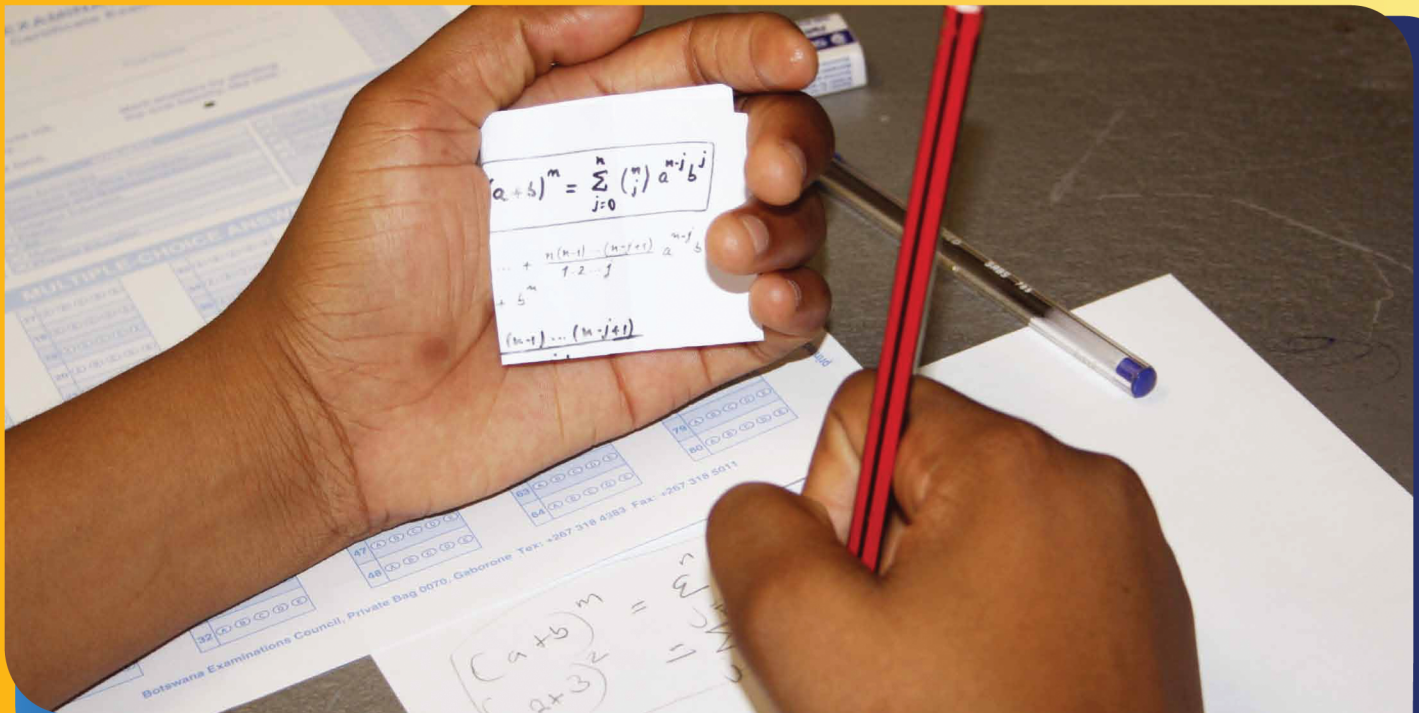


BTU Deputy President Mr. Gotlamang Oitsile



Prof. Brian Mokopakgosi addressing Union representatives.

Stop Examinations Malpractice



Malpractice involves a deliberate act of wrongdoing, contrary to official examination rules, and is designed to place a candidate at an unfair advantage or disadvantage.

DETECTION OF MALPRACTICE

School heads, chief invigilators, invigilators, supervisors and Examination Council officials provide much of the evidence for malpractice. Evidence is also provided by candidates, parents and the public who witness malpractice, and from others disillusioned by the failure of bribed officials to deliver the expected level of support.

Examinations malpractice is a serious offence punishable by law. Any person who commits an offence shall be liable on conviction to a fine not less than P5 000.00 but not more than P8 000.00 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

All enquiries and reports of examinations malpractice should be reported to the Executive Secretary Botswana Examinations Council either by form of writing or in person.



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

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