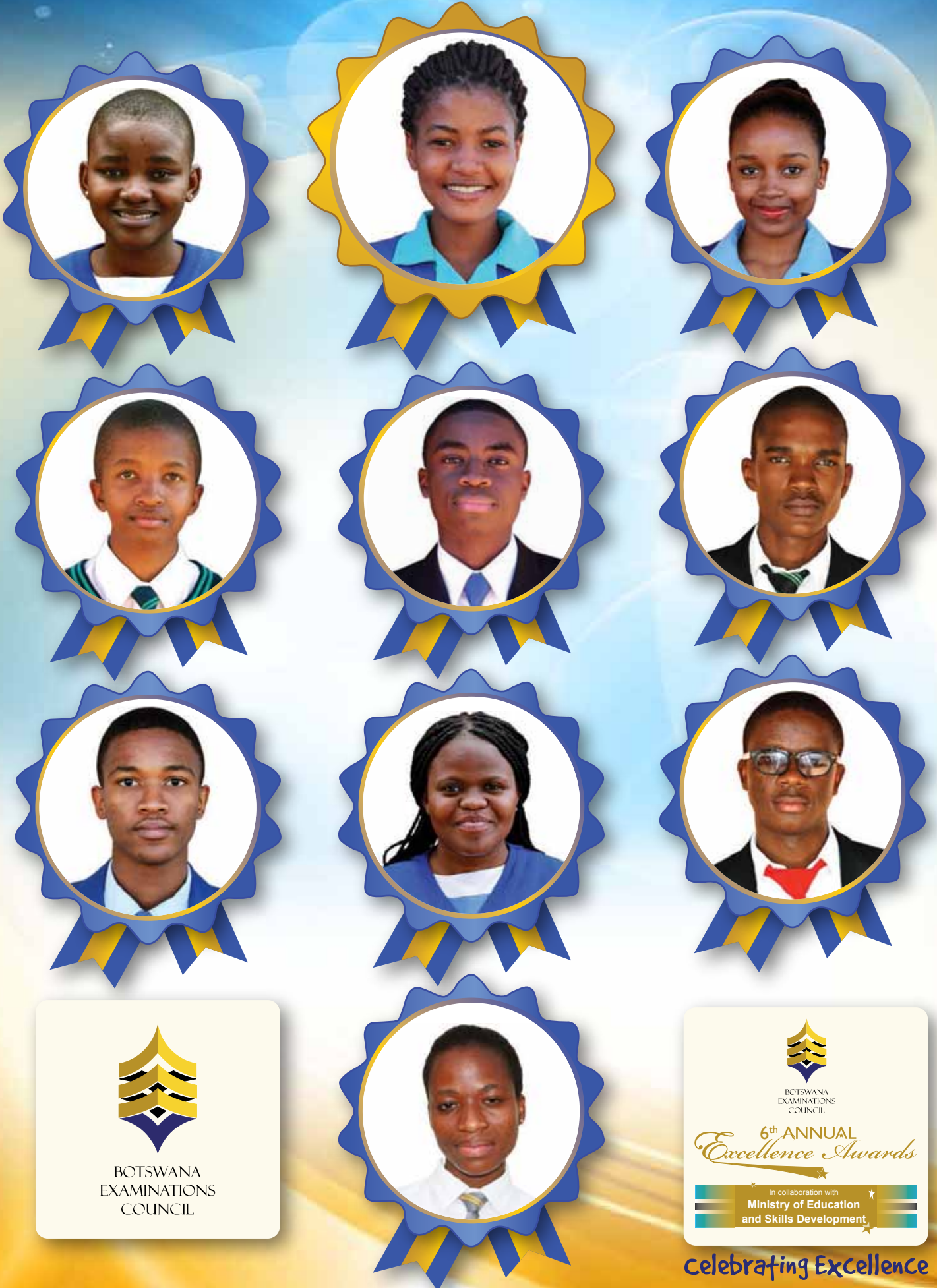


Sixth Stars

A Botswana Examinations Council Publication Profiling the 2014 BGCSE Top 10 Candidates



celebrating Excellence



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

WHO ARE WE?

Mission, Vision and Core Values

A Mission gives the scope of an organization's operations, defines why it exists and reflects the organization's purpose. A Vision statement is the desired result accomplished when an organization delivers value to its customers. It is an organization's picture of future success - where it wants to be in the future. Core Values are the organization's guiding principles that bind the organization's members together to ensure mission success and delivery of customer value. BEC's Mission, Vision and Core Values are as follows:

Our Mission

"Provision of a credible and responsive assessment and examination system."

Mission Commentary:

Credible: Trustworthy and Error free assessments and examinations that conforms 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

Our Vision

"To be a provider of accessible and globally competitive qualifications."

Our Core Values

- **Excellence:** We have passion for quality work and outstanding performance characterised by the use of innovative and creative solutions
- **Integrity:** We uphold best practice standards, honesty, professionalism and ethical behaviour.
- **Transparency:** We are open in all matters of public interest while safeguarding confidential information.
- **People Focus:** Our people; employees, the community we serve and nation at large is profoundly important to us. We are thus committed to cultivating a culture that is characterised by mutual respect, professionalism, courtesy, compassion and sharing to build lasting and rewarding relationships.

Who we are?

The Botswana Examination Council (BEC) was established by an Act of Parliament, Act No. 11 of 2002, as a body corporate governed by a Council. The council has fourteen members appointed by The Minister of Education and Skills Development, The University of Botswana, private schools, teachers' organizations, the private sector, the public, Botswana Training Authority, Botswana College of Open Distance Learning, and the Tertiary Education Council, Botswana Police Service and the Directorate of Public Service Management. BEC was established as a parastatal that will execute the examinations of the national curriculum for the Ministry of Education and Skills Development.

Our Function and responsibilities

BEC is mandated to conduct school examinations and any other examinations for the Ministry and issue certificates in respect of such examinations. BEC's key business activity is the development, administration, accreditation and certification of school

examination in the primary and secondary education sub-sectors.

The specific functions and responsibilities of Botswana Examinations Council are as follows:

- To develop an assessment policy framework
- To ensure availability of appropriate assessment programmes and examination tools
- To determine examinations procedures for all aspects of the examination process for examination it conducts
- To manage and administer the examination and certification process for the primary and secondary sub-sectors
- To make all logistical arrangements for marking of examination scripts and products
- To regulate all examinations it conducts
- To accredit all examination centers, including schools as a quality assurance mechanism for all the examinations it conducts.
- To issue result of examinations
- To issue certificates in respect of such examinations.

The Council carries the accountability for policy, strategy, delivery and quality assurance of all aspects of primary and secondary education examination, including the establishment and maintenance of standards/ achievement of targets and assessment process.

Organizational Structuring

BEC is organized into five Directorates and four Divisions as follows

Directorates

1. Examination Administration and Certification
2. Product Development and Standards
3. Research and Policy Development
4. Information, Communications and Technology (ICT)
5. Corporate Services

Divisions

1. Compliance and Quality Assurance Division
2. Corporate Communications Division
3. Internal Audit Division
4. Office of Strategy Management

Botswana Examinations Council is lead by the Executive Secretary. The directorates are headed by a Director and divisions by a Manager. The Executive Secretary and the Directors form the Executive Management Team

Botswana Examinations Council

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Botswana Examinations Council

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Foreword By Executive Secretary

It is once again the time of the year when the Botswana Examinations Council in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) stages the Excellence Awards Ceremony to recognise and celebrate outstanding achievement in the 2014 general education examinations. The 6th Annual Excellence Awards continues the tradition of recognition of the high performers in our schools across the breadth of this country. This magazine is dedicated to the 36 top achievers in the 2014 PSLE, JCE and BGCSE. It serves as a permanent record of their achievement and encouragement to them and others to do more in the future.

The awards began in 2010 when the Management and Board of the Botswana Examinations Council saw the need to promote excellence through recognition and celebration of outstanding performance in the schools examinations. During the following year, the BEC partnered with the Ministry of Education and Skills Development to host the annual event, a relationship that has continued to date.

Over the years, the private sector and individuals have shown interest in the awards and demonstrated such by funding the prizes for the various categories of candidates. These include prizes for top achievers at primary and secondary schools, including prizes for candidates with special needs. The BEC and the MoESD is indebted to these loyal supporters who continue to grow in number. It is our hope that they will be part of the efforts of the Council to ensure that the awards are sustainable.

Education is a collective responsibility. It involves the government, which provides the resources, the teachers who deliver teaching and learning, the parents who encourage the children, and the children themselves, who should be willing to learn, etc. Once all of the above are aligned, then quality teaching and learning takes place, which results in outstanding performance by students. The awards therefore serve in a very special way as recognition of all those who have one way or the other contributed to the performance of the awardees. The Botswana Examinations Council and the Ministry of education and Skills Development wish to thank you for the job well done.

To the recipients of the awards, we wish to congratulate you most sincerely on your achievement. As you enjoy your success to date, please remember that this is only the beginning of a long and arduous journey, with many distractions.

Congratulations and all best wishes for the future.



Professor Brian Mokopkgosi
Executive Secretary



To the Top Achievers 2014



Karabo H. U. Sankoloba (third from right) pictured with some of the 2013 BGCSE Top Achievers during the award ceremony held in their honour.

First thing's first, if you have earned the title 'Top achiever' this year, then congratulations are due. It has probably been said to you a lot already, but you did good! No you did REALLY good. All those sleepless nights and sacrifices (or sheer genius for some) have finally paid off. You can now confidently say "You Made It".

Unfortunately though, or fortunately if you like adventure and challenges, that was just the beginning. The rest of your life await, and luckily for you, you managed to start off with a bang. That, however, should not be reason for you to lose focus or slack. Rather, think of it as a reason to do even more, to achieve even greater things. You now know you have it in you to achieve greatness, which is usually what holds most people back.

Having been where you are only just last year, there isn't much advice I can give you from experience. The one thing I feel the need to say though is that it will not get any easier from here. Don't get me wrong, it will be far easier than it is for most, but that does not mean it will be easier than it has been in your previous years. That is not how life works. So

be prepared to go at it again. Be prepared to make sacrifices and spend more nights preparing for exams (even if you are a genius). Just a few more years and you'll be living that dream life you always dreamt about.

Lastly, as you continue to succeed and excel in life, make sure you do not forget the people and things that made you; your family, teachers, friends, God and everyone else who has been there for you. It is easy to forget, once you are at the top, that you started from the bottom, and that so many factors raised you onto the pedestal you enjoy. Give them the gratitude they deserve and they will continue to take you to greater heights!

Good luck Top Achievers, and once again, well done with the awesome start to the race of life! God Bless.

* Karabo H U Sankoloba

* **Karabo H. U. Sankoloba was the runner up in the 2013 BGCSE Examinations. He is currently doing his A level in London under the Education Hub Scholarship.**



Next to EXCELLENCE, comes appreciation.



Congratulations Top Achievers, you have made your schools and villages proud.

KEY



Top achiever



Top achiever's place of origin

KM Keneilwe Makwati
CT Clement Thapelo
DG Dimpho Gosenyang
CM Caleb Musekiwa

NM Nicole Maikano
TW Thato Willie
BM Bridget Malose
DM Dikano Motamma

DK Daniel Kgautle
GM Galefelele Modie

Dumelang. Hello. or simply Olaaaaaa!



2013 Golden Star Award recipient Kago Langton Goveya

First and foremost let me congratulate you on your outstanding performance in your examinations. It takes a great deal of dedication, commitment and patience to produce such marvelous results. Given all the challenges, distractions and social pressures of our time, your achievement consolidates the statement that has become somewhat a cliché but still carries a powerful message that “you can do anything you set your mind on”.

Your achievement just opened a portal to a whole new world. A world with great and wonderful things. Great opportunities. But this new world also has its challenges. Embrace both these challenges and opportunities and use them to help you grow and mature. Always be conscious of the fact that as much as we are living, we are also dying so do not waste any time thinking that you will start to take growth and maturity seriously at a certain age. This is the time! The time is now! I am strong believer in God and purpose. I believe each and every one of us has a special purpose. A divine reason for which we were created, and we have limited time to fulfill our roles.

Your achievement will also bring you a lot of attention. Do not lose yourself. One of the things that you should be praying for the most is humility. Believe me, you are going to need a lot of divine intervention in that department so do not take it lightly. Always be aware of the fact that

it is through the taxes of hardworking Batswana that you were able to access such a high standard of education while paying almost nothing, so YES! You do owe them something. Your community, your town, village and mostly importantly, YOUR COUNTRY.

Lastly I will advise you NOT TO GET COMFORTABLE. Do not let your past achievements get in your way. Always be hungry for more. Lol, but don't get it twisted. The kind of hunger that I am talking about is not GREED!!

On a lighter note, be happy, celebrate and share this achievement with everybody. Use it to inspire others. Be open. Share your story. Your story might be a great source of inspiration for one or two people.

“Do not strive to be the best. Strive to be the best that you can be and if in doing that you are the best, then talk about killing two birds with one stone”

Kago Goveya aka kid who sings in the shower!!

*** Kago Goveya was the Golden Star Recipient in the 2013 BGCSE Examinations. He is currently doing his A level in Bellerbey College in Brighton under the Education Hub Scholarship.**

"I love education,
I love books"



'I am passionate about education'

Dimpho Gosenyang's older siblings have all excelled in academics and one of them was a Top Achiever in 2010 when the Excellence Awards programme was on its debut, she went to study in the United Kingdom. The last born of four girls was now confronted with a colourful precedent to uphold, but the young lady failed to live up to expectations in 2012 when she sat for her JCE examinations. Fast forward to two years later she changed her attitude and became passionate about her studies, and for her passionate effort she walks away with the prestigious award she takes home the Golden Star Award by the State President to the student who finished first in the BGCSE category.

The Tlokweng born young lady who went to Naledi Senior Secondary School in Gaborone is down to earth, simple and friendly to everyone you would not for a second think she is a bright student, this is according to her Head of House at school Mrs. Nchadi Pofelo. "Dimpho is obedient, she treated teachers as if they were her parents," highlighted Pofelo. Dimpho's triumph did not come as a surprise to the school; this is the girl who always won more awards than her peers during the school's prize giving seremonies. However Pofelo says they were shocked by her Maths grade as they expected an A* but she got an A. She further revealed that their heroin was a God fearing child; she even bought her (Pofelo) a journal with biblical verses.

Mrs. Mpho Tsiako remembers Dimpho as a very organized student who had passion for learning. "She always carried multi coloured pens she used to take notes in her summary note book," she recalled. With a lit up face Tsiako chuckles and shared a story with the profiling team; she says Dimpho once brought to school a box full of kittens and gave them away to her peers. This she says resembled her playful and jolly character that she often misses. The Class Teacher says at times she felt her student was going hard on herself with her intensified revisions. Tsiako took the opportunity to pride herself with the fact that her class was the best in the school, as they followed her ground rules which includes amongst others time management, team work and cleanliness which she said goes a long way in academic excellence. Thursday mornings were reserved for sharing the word of God and

Dimpho never hesitated to give her classmates a motivational speech centered on the gospel.

Dimpho is the only child of four who is still staying with her parents' home in Tlokweng she was busy feeding best friends (cats and dogs). Her mother Ntombi Gosenyang is over the moon and does not waste a second she gets the interview rolling; the team later learns she has quite a mouthful to share hence her time consciousness. The proud mother starts off by sharing with the team that they have been blessed with four daughters and all of them were bright academics the other is also a Top Archiver recipient; so the family is familiar with this kind of visit. At home Dimpho is talkative and playful she always puts her father's intelligence to the test and laugh at him if she wins. Talkative and playful as she is, her mother says she is also a hard worker and does her household chores especially that she is the only child staying at home. "Discipline was a key component in raising our children," she said.

The Golden Star's opportunity to tell her story finally came and she starts off by acknowledging God's grace for having led her to glory. "People think it was easy but it was not, I needed spiritual intervention," confessed Dimpho. Dimpho said she did not have friends but networked with students from other schools to help each other with school work. Surprisingly the Golden Star did not feature in the Excellence Awards charts at JCE in 2012, but she managed to beat 37 384 candidates who sat for BGCSE in 2014. Quizzed on what motivated such a turn around her smile fades as she wears a more serious face and take a big sigh before sharing her secret "I love education, I love books," she said adding that school vacations stress her. She further said in 2012 when she sat for her JCE she was not passionate about education and hence did not put much effort despite her older sisters' advice to take her studies serious. She says she is still excited about her achievement noting that even strangers now notice her. Of all the people who have played a role in her success she gave a special mention to one lady who once gave her a box full of her past examination papers, she never saw again but would love to meet her and thank her personally.

As the Golden Star, Dimpho will enjoy the privilege of sharing the podium with the State President. She aspires to be a Pediatric or Neurosurgeon.

2014
2013
2012



Naledi produced the 2014 Golden star.

2011
2010



The God fearing Dimpho bought her HOD, Mrs Pofelo a journal with biblical verses.

2009
2008



Dimpho's class teacher Mrs Tsiako set ground rules for the class and they followed them.

2007



Mrs Gosenyang is over the moon about her daughter's achievement.

2006

2005

2004

2003

2002



Though she was not passionate about her studies at JCE level she still collected numerous awards.



Nonofo gave Mater Spei College bragging rights by walking away with a Ministerial Award.



Deputy Head Mr Mongwewarona reckons it is fulfilling to have excelling students like Nonofo.



Class teacher Mrs Ngueja says Nonofo was not a problem child.



Head of House Mrs Mokgosi says Nonofo was a level headed student.



Nonofo has a notable academic record, she is second time Excellence Award recipient.



“The foundation of my success is the fear of being ordinary.”

Natural Intelligence

Working hard towards attaining something, at most if not always comes with positive dividends but when hard work is coupled with natural talent or intelligence a podium finish is guaranteed. This is the case with the 6th Excellence Awards BGCSE Top 10 runner up Nonofo Maikano of Mater Spei College.

Nonofo had an opportunity to give the current Mater Spei students a motivating word to cherish as a manual in their pursuit to excellence. She told a packed school assembly that she didn't want to be ordinary, bragging rights that the students cheered to. Nonofo advised students not to be bothered by the opinions and labels that other student might attach to them but remain focused. "Do not be changed by the situation, change the situation," she challenged them.

The Mahalapye born young lady is described by her academic staff as a naturally intelligent student. The school Headmaster Mr. Jabulani Munyere says Nonofo's brilliant performance was expected as she has always dominated the school's prize giving ceremonies and maintained a consistent performance. "Nonofo has always been a bright student," he expressed. Obvious as it seemed that Nonofo will finish in the Top Achievers bracket, the Deputy Headmaster and Head of Academics Mr Lekgotla Mongwewarona smiles and shakes his head with disbelief strongly suggesting he wanted her to excel badly. "This is a very difficult era for the teaching fraternity; students are not committed as before. It is so fulfilling to have excelling students like Nonofo," he says with pride.

Nonofo was a level headed student and had no traces of arrogance despite her being a merit student this is according to her Head of House Mrs Boitumelo Mokgosi. Mokgosi proudly revealed that Nonofo's lowest pass in her two years at the Francistown based Mission school was an A, showing how much a gem she was. "Her commitment to school work was amazing, she never missed morning prep which runs for an hour before classes," she commended. Mokgosi further said the Top Achiever conducted herself very at school posing a shy, quiet but jolly

character. Mrs. Lucia Ngueja is Nonofo's class teacher and she is happy the guidance and gospel she shared with her class did not fall on deaf ears as Nonofo is testimony to that. Ngueja describes Nicole as a very humble and soft spoken student one would not instantly associate her with excellent academic excellence but she led class revision sessions and was a good presenter when challenged to do so. "I have never had a problem with her; she helped her classmates with chores around the class," she noted.

A well raised child with rooted traditional values Nonofo knows what is expected of her at home and never goes fishing for trouble, her mother reveals with a very emotional face. Mrs Kgomotso Maikano says she raised her daughter as an average Tswana child, she helps with chores at home and all her entire basic education life she never enjoyed the luxury of being transported to school as she walked. In contrast she says Nonofo has lazy tendencies sometimes she over sleeps. Her mother also reckons her daughter's academic aptitude is God given but she supplements it with hard work and discipline. "She has a lot of ambition, she has always wanted to be best," Maikano praised. The mother further said she is still expecting more and is confident her daughter will continue to make her proud.

Sitting close but adjacent to her mother in the family living room, Nonofo affirms her mother's endorsement that she has always wanted to be the best. "The foundation of my success is the fear of being ordinary," words she also inspired her junior peers with on a visit to her former school. She says she followed a normal routine as she was never a book worm. Resembling a somewhat shy mood she claims that she was not expecting the Top Achievers tag but prayed for it. "It is God's will," she confessed. Nonofo thanked her parents, teachers and peers who she says where very supportive and helped her in her journey to success.

Nonofo is not a debutant to the Excellence Awards podium as she was a recipient for JCE Top Achievers during the 2013 ceremony. Upon completing her A levels she wishes to study Actuarial Science.

"My mind works like a shelf, I have packaged information in folders."



Fruits Of Good Uprising

There is no manual to parenthood but it is every parent's dream to see their parental skills get the best out of their children. The 2014 Excellence Awards, second runner up Shato Willie is a perfect example of a child who embraced her parents' guidance and discipline to her benefit.

Unlike her peers the young lady who had to earn the privilege of having and using a mobile phone by getting a minimum of 6 A* is not yet on social, she is not familiar with even the most popular corridors of Gaborone never mind that she was born and bred in the capital. Shato does not even master the television programming schedule especially the mid-week shows, not because there is no television set at their house; it has always been there but her mother is a no nonsense parents and she is fine with it.

Shato went to St Joseph's College and has made the government aided Catholic institution proud, finishing third on the list of only ten Top Achievers. Mr. Herbert Setume, the school's Deputy Headmaster and Head of Academics proudly says they long saw Shato's achievement coming. He says their former student was a very clever girl and like the majority of the school's students she was very disciplined. "There is a very high degree of discipline by the teachers, students and parents are also involved," Setume applauded. Setume says all students are encouraged to retain or improve their JCE grades and passing with at least six credits is compulsory. He further said when a student falls short of six credits even for month end tests, the parents are summoned to the school to discuss ways of helping such a student. "We do our best here as a school and parents meet us half way with making sure their children refrain from bad tendencies like flocking malls on weekends," emphasized Setume.

Shato's Head of House Mr. Michael Tabona described Shato as a hardworking and focused student. "Whenever she was not satisfied with her performance she was quick to redeem herself," he recalled. Shato was appointed student prefect a title that comes with a lot and challenging responsibilities but she still managed to juggle between being a custodian to her peers and her studies, much to her head of House's delight. Tabona revealed that upon realising Shato's potential to finish as a Top Achiever they called her parents to school and encouraged them to nurture her.

Our crew arrived to a switched off television at Shato's house one would even miss noticing

there is a television set in the living room. Shato's mother Ms. Ednah Mauco Willie welcomes the team and the interview commences without her daughter who was still busy with house chores. Ms. Willie refuses to take the credit alone she a child is raised by a village and her daughter is perfect example of such as she was raised by relatives, teachers, the community and church. The proud mother calmly narrates how she cultivated good morals in her children from a young age, "I always brought newspapers from work and regularly bought book, we all read and appended our signatures as evidence of having read," she shared. Watching television was only allowed during the weekend and not until late into the night, sleep overs, getting home late from school made part of the DON'TS list which Shato learnt to be faithful to. Her mother she has always encouraged her to volunteer and help others, while doing standard 4 Shato she was taught sign language so that she could translate to her classmates who had had a hearing disability. Willie said despite our education system shortfalls it is still the best and emphasized the importance of parents' involvement in their children's education. "It is important for parents to drop off their children at school and pick them up, as a way of keeping them from bad influence," she added. Shato advised her former colleagues at St Joseph's to work hard, be disciplined and persevere as she never gave up even when results were not coming forth. She says she devised creative ways of revising so as to make learning as easy as possible. "My mind works like a shelf, I have packaged information in folders," she bragged. This smart way of revising and storing information in her brain she says helped her even when they were given a surprise test she would always be prepared. Asked if her mother ever used corporal punishment, without thinking she went "YAY..." in confirmation her mother believed in the proverb; spare the rod and spoil the child. Her mother just chuckled to her response; she knows she has taught her well.

Shato won an Excellence Award for being the best in Agriculture in JCE in 2012 but failed to finish in the Top 10, a failure she said motivated her. Upon completing her A levels she wants to study medicine, specializing in Cardiology or Neurology. Shato used to volunteer as a tutor during school holidays at Wendywood Primary School in Sandton, South Africa, she still offers free tutorials to Moselewapula JSS students. Congratulations Shato you are the Chairman's Award recipient for the 6th Excellence Awards.



Shato of St. Joseph's finished as the second runner up and walked away with BEC's Chairman's Award.



Deputy Head Mr Setumo says the school does not tolerate indiscipline and under performance.



Head of House Mr Tabona called Shato's parent to school and encourage them to nurture her talent.



Shato advice St Joseph's student to work hard and they will persevere.



Shato and her mother showing some of the prizes she won during her academic journey.





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6th ANNUAL
Excellence Awards



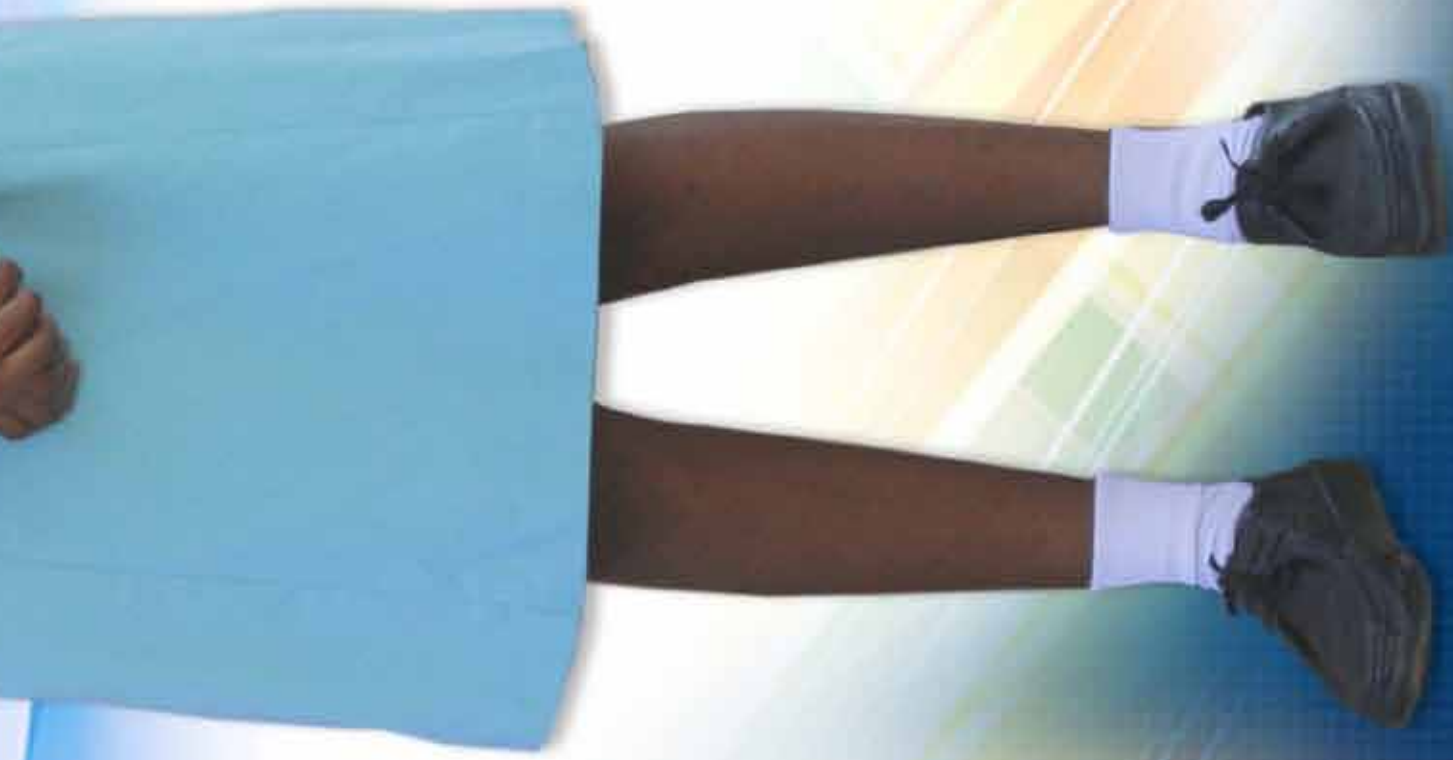
In collaboration with
**Ministry of Education
and Skills Development**



GOLDEN STAR

Dimpho Mme Gosenyang
Naledi Senior Secondary School

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD RECIPIENT BGCSE 2014





Ledumang is proud of Gorata's achievement.



Acting Headmaster Ms Kalane is now confident at their teaching methods.



Head of House Mr Ghobe is happy that Gorata did not disappoint.



Class teacher Mr Ramogolane says Gorata was committed to her studies.



The second time Excellence Award recipient's prizes are too many for the whole family's hands.



"I kept a positive mind and ignored negative comments like being called teachers' pet."

Humble Beginnings

In 2012 a Form 2 student opted against her father's recommendation that she register for the JCE examination as a private candidate but she was convinced to register for same at the eleventh hour and passed with flying colours. This had set a foundation for good things to come; Gorata Malose has finished as a Top Achiever for the 2014 BGCSE and will get her second Excellence Award. Gorata a former Ledumang Senior Secondary Student by defying the odds highly inspired her former school students and indeed motivated them with her special achievement; as perceived by Ledumang acting Headmaster Ms. Lesedi Kalane. "We now have confidence to continue using the study methods we have been using," she boosted. These methods she said are amongst others, afternoon classes, rewarding excelling students, setting targets for students and teachers. About the young lady who has taken Ledumang SSS to greater heights, Kalane said Gorata was a highly reserved person only to be noticed when she was scooping prices. Kalane also labeled their shining star a book worm as she was always caught reading even during the lunch break. Mr. Cyprian Ghobe was Gorata's Head of House during her two years' tenure at Ledumang and gathered the young lady was a committed with a sense of urgency resembled by her fast pace when she walked. "She was not very interactive, she was very committed," he said. Ghobe went on to describe Gorata as a student who possessed traits of a well raised child with good morals and said her background played a significant role in her academic journey. He said the school was blessed with a pool of naturally gifted students but unlike Gorata they were not focused hence they failed. "I am very happy she did not disappoint, she made the school proud," he applauded. His sentiments are rubber-stamped by his junior, Gorata's class teacher Mr Kedibonye Ramogolane who also said Gorata was a disciplined student who liked her studies. "She always helped her potential and tried to show them that they also have potential," he recalled. The reserved and shy persona Gorata possesses is not a character displayed at school; she is the same person at home. Sitting adjacent to his daughter, he father Mr. Lesedi Malose who also has some what a

shy character picked from his soft voice and a calm face says his daughter does not talk much. Malose narrates to the team how her daughter has always been a genius, he says when she was doing Standard 6 at Phakalane Primary her interlligence was beyond her age but she refused to register for the Standard 7 PSLE examination. Had she registered and sat for PSLE examinations a year earlier; Gorata could have finished her basic education prematurely by two (2) years as she later agreed to write JCE examinations a year earlier as a Form 2 student. Not only did she pass well, she finished as the Best in General Science and decorated her full trophy cabinet with an Excellence Award. It is this sheer brilliance that has always given her father confidence in her to excel academically. "I expected her to score good grades, she has made us proud," he said. The proud father further shared that Gorata always borrows books from the national library which helps boost her natural intelligence. The young genius says she is inspired by quotes from wise men form the past like that of former French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte which says 'Impossible is a word only to be found in the dictionary of fools.' This she says relates well with her as she never sees any set goal as impossible to attain. Another of the quotes that inspired her to greater heights is that of the late American Poet, Henry Wardsworth Longfellow which alludes that 'The heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night.' Like Longfellow argued Gorata was a hard worker spending sleepless night to prepare for examinations so that she can be victorious at the end of the day. Shy as she might be when her brain is challenged she talks with so much confidence and flow if you are not a good listener you might just miss a smart point. "I kept a positive mind and ignored negative comments like being called teachers' pet," she revealed. A second time Excellence Award winner; Gorata has also qualified for the Top Achievers scholarship sponsored by the Education Hub. She would like to study Aerospace Engineering or Actuarial Science when she completes her A Levels.

“You cannot excel without God, my faith gave me strength.”



A Responsible Learner

It is every teacher's dream to have a disciplined student who never gets in trouble for unscholarly tendencies. Lotsane Senior Secondary School had more than just a disciplined student in Caleb Musekiwa, their Top Achiever for 2014 BGCSE.

Caleb's level of maturity and responsibility is so amazing; the teaching staff at Lotsane is wowed by the young man's conduct. It is his maturity, displayed by his excellent student discipline and responsibility that made Lotsane SSS confident that they will be represented in the BGCSE Top Achievers charts for 2014. The school's Deputy Headmaster and Head of Academics Mr. James Ponoesele reckon Caleb was not only disciplined but God fearing as well. "He refrained from bad tendencies and surrounded himself with disciplined colleagues," Ponoesele highlighted. Caleb's Head of House Ms. Constance Onkabetse commends the Top Achiever for having pushed his classmates to do well also; thirty six (36) out of the thirty seven (37) students in his class passed with five (5) credits or better. She says Caleb who was appointed House Captain due to his leadership qualities, came up with good initiatives that helped the house and the school improve especially academically. "He was a smart boy, he made my job quite easy," she recalls with a smile.

Class Teacher Mrs. Maureen Thebe captions Caleb as a dedicated, focused student who possessed elements of responsibility. She says he was not only respectful to his teachers but his peers as well and had a very good spirit of brotherhood. Thebe recalled one particular incident in which Caleb displayed spirit of brotherhood; two students took transfers to Lotsane and were put in her class, the other was behind with their physics syllabus the other behind in statistics. Caleb voluntarily offered to tutor the two so that they could catch up with the rest of the class and the two have since passed the subjects. "I am very happy to have worked with such a special student," Thebe took some pride. One of the initiatives that he is said to have introduced in the school was inducting and welcoming new students to the school, something which was not done before.

The profiling crew arrived at Caleb's house to a warm welcome as the young man

prepared tea for the guests. His mother Mrs. Gertrude Musekiwa's eyes fill up with tears but she succeeds in not letting them roll down her cheeks; she cannot believe the long announced visit has finally happened all because of her son. She stares at him adoringly and sighs before going on to describe him as a wonderful son, very dependable and an individual who cares about others. "You can always count on him, when you ask him to do something consider it done already," she praised. Mrs. Musekiwa says the family prayed for 6 A*, but finishing amongst the Top 10 students is such an honour. Mrs. Musekiwa says her son is self-motivated but she still monitored his monthly performance at school. "My son told me about the Excellence Awards and declared his ambitions to be one of the recipients," she revealed. She said that this motivating initiative shows that the government cares about its people and issues of education.

Caleb an international student from the neighbouring Zimbabwe confessed that seeing his parents struggle to raise money for his school fees pushed him to work hard and keep excelling at school. "I never cared about material rewards, the love and support my parents gave me was motivation enough to work hard," he shared. Caleb credited his classmates and teachers who he reckons also played a role in his success, giving his physics teacher for always calling him to school on weekends to tutor him and their biology teacher Ms Badubi who gave everyone in his class a good luck card when the final examinations started. The God fearing young man possesses good public speaking traits, when addressing Lotsane SSS he did not struggle to reference his unwritten speech to bible scriptures. "You cannot excel without God, my faith gave me strength," he advised. One of the things that drove him to success he says it is his father's inspirational words that he should always be a leader and not let anything go before him.

Caleb's achievement has helped Lotsane SSS to get a top ten finish as one of the best excelling schools, something they have failed to achieve in the past 10 years. He hopes to get a University scholarship and study Chemical Engineering.



Lotsane managed to finish in the Top Ten for the first time in ten years thanks to Caleb's contribution.



Mr Ponoesele says Caleb refrained from bad company.



Class teacher Mrs Thebe was impressed by Caleb's respect for both his teacher and peers.



Head of House Ms Onkabetse says Caleb made her job easy.



Caleb's mother commended the government for prioritising issues of education.



For the second consecutive year Masunga Senior is represented in the Top Achievers charts.



Headmaster Mrs Letsholathebe says they must be doing something right as a school.



Head of House Mr Bajiti is happy his efforts paid off.



Birds of the feather; Dikano and Clement both made Masunga Senior proud.



Dikano's parents thank God for shining light onto academic path.



"I am very grateful to the commitment displayed by my teachers as they were always there to help me."

'I was a typical student'

I was a typical student, my academic journey was full of hope, these are words that take the lead when Masunga Senior Secondary School's Dikano Motamma steps up to the podium to share his story of excellence. Dikano who has never attained 48 points during the school's internal examinations timidly admits it was sweet to live the ultimate dream at a point where it mattered most. "My achievement did not come with ease, working hard perseverance got me here," he advised Masunga Senior students. Tough as a podium finish posed to be Dikano never needed a tutor to give him extra lessons; he relied on solution books bought for him by his parents and also used his laptop to download study material from the internet. Masunga Senior Head of Academics and Deputy School Head Mr. Gaositege Chakalisa's ecstatic mood cannot be missed; his facial expression best captions happiness. Two of his students have been knighted to the prestigious BEC Excellence Awards in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, perhaps his high spirits. "We are very proud of the two boys they have not only done well for themselves but for the school as well, thanks to them the school managed to finish in the Top 10," he chuckles. Chakalisa now posing a relaxed mood added that good student behavior and good academic performance co-relate and Dikano is an epitome of such.

The School Headmaster Ms Bana Letsholathebe says Dikano's achievement is testimony that the school is doing something right. "This is motivating to other students our efforts were worth it," highlighted Letsholathebe. She credited the involvement of the community especially parents, pastors and former students as the secret recipe to their success. Dikano's Head of House Mr Thomas Bajiti also played a pivotal role in producing a Top Achiever for the school. "I made him believe in himself, and it is fulfilling to see that my efforts have been rewarded," he shared.

Class Teacher Mr. Peter Ontefetse said he is very happy to be associated with a student of Dikano's caliber. "He is a reserved young man but was always willing to help his peers," he commended. Ontefetse went

on to acknowledge Dikano's father for his commitment and involvement in his child's education, something he says many parents should practice.

At home Thophego and Gladys Motamma are excited and proud about their son Dikano's achievement; they were happy to wait all morning for the BEC profiling crew to visit their house and extended a warm hospitality. Thophego speaks proudly of his son describing him as a person who is always hungry and eager to learn. "Dikano liked education from a young age and has always had a positive attitude towards academics," shared daddy. Sitting next to her husband Gladys's emotional face resembles the passion coupled with pride she has for her excelling son. She says her son is a devoted Christian and for that they are grateful to God for his guidance to this accolade.

Self-confessed typical Dikano says the diameter of his circle of friends is so small it can be measured with a school ruler, and emphasizes that one ought to keep positive company or risk losing focus. "I am very grateful to the commitment displayed by my teachers as they were always there to help me," he acknowledged. He also extended gratitude to his family he says always encouraged him not to lose focus and reminded him of the principles and values of the house. As a word of advice to students who would like to emulate him Dikano said they should not be discouraged even if results are not coming fourth and they should remember the Vision 2016 pillar of An Educated and Informed Nation.

Dikano's excellent performance did not only earn him an Excellence Award and a Top Achievers scholarship, helped his school Masunga to engrave their name on the BGCSE Top 10 Excellence Awards for the second consecutive year. The Masunga born recipient is one of the two recipients that earned his school bragging rights making sure that they have not only one but two Top Achievers compared to only one last year. After completing his A levels 'Mr Cool' as he was affectionately named by his Deputy School head because of his calm character aspires to study Neurology and become a Neurosurgeon.

"I have failed before but it never limited me to achieve something greater."



There are no limits

Many have normalized limiting their capabilities because of fear to challenge themselves to bigger goals but not Thapelo Clement. The former Masunga Senior Secondary School (MSSS) student challenged himself to finishing amongst the best ten out of over 41 000 students who set for the BGCSE in 2014 and today he is living the dream.

Thapelo who for a good part of his basic education days was an average scholar says he turned the tables just a few months before the final examination following a motivational speech by his former senior at MSSS Thabang Selalame who was a Top Achiever in the 2014 BEC Excellence Awards. Last year Thabang advised MSSS students that they can achieve what he had also achieved; "working hard is not hard," were Thabang's exact words. When his turn to shine finally came Thapelo's speech was not parallel from that of his role model Thabang. Just like him he advised his juniors that excellence is attainable when pursued. "This achievement is not a miracle, I just wrote correct answers and I passed," he boasted to the students' applause.

Deputy School head Mr. Gaositwe Chakalisa speaks volumes of their gem; he doesn't run short of words to praise the former prefect. "This boy was not an ordinary student, he always advised school management on how to make the school the best," praised Chakalisa. Chakalisa said because Thapelo's good leadership skills as a prefect, the school and the students were at peace. The School Headmaster Ms. Bana Letsholathebe conquers with his second in command that Thapelo has contributed in bridging the gap between the teachers and students. "We hardly punish our students; any distasteful fashion of discipline is nipped in the bud at its infancy," she highlighted. On Thapelo's academic performance she said the fellow was a reserved but quality student who let his grades do the talking. She further shared that the school outlined their vision to their potential Top Achievers and they are happy to have two of their students as recipients of the awards though they were expecting at least three.

His Head of House Mr. Thomas Bajiti remembers Thapelo as a well-rounded kid who was eager to learn as he needed less motivation to excel. Bajiti says with the help of Thapelo's class teacher Mr. Peter Ontefetse they regularly monitored the performance of students and identified those who needed more help. Ontefetse says he encouraged his class to do group discussions and Thapelo led one of the study groups as he was always willing to help his friends. "Students like him making the teaching job interesting," Ontefetse noted.

Thapelo who hails from Mowana Village in the North East District just adjacent to the A1 road is a last born of two. Raised by a single mother, he has had a fair of the hardships that comes with being born without a silver spoon; his mother Dolly Clement looks relieved during the interview, she is confident the future looks bright. Dolly confirms his son's confession that he has always been an average student and passed with a second class at J.C. "He showed improvement towards the last lap, this is a very sweet surprise," she revealed. Though she didn't see the Top Achiever accolade coming, the proud mother says his son put in a lot of hard work in his studies; even during school holidays he confined himself to his bedroom and read all day, a habit that earned him a nickname 'motsetsi'. The committed student Thapelo was equally hard working at home and never forgot to do his chores; he would wake up very early to collect firewood in the bush before retiring to his *botsetsi*.

Thapelo says his mother always encouraged him to study hard as education was his ticket to a better livelihood. He advised his peers not fear challenging themselves to achieve greater things, saying the brain has no limit but is limited by one. "I have failed before but it never limited me to achieve something greater," he said.

The aspiring Chemical Engineer further advised that every set goal is achievable as long as one works hard and sacrifices even the things they love most. Thapelo concluded that MSSS is the best school he has ever went to and urged MSSS to make the best out of their time at the school as they are in the best place.



Thapelo was inspired by the former Top Achiever from his school.



Deputy School head Mr. Chakalisa is full of praise for his two Top Achievers.



Mr. Ontefetse is grateful for students like Clement who make teaching interesting.



Clement credits Masunga Senior as the best school he has ever attended.



Clement family are happy their book worm has finally reaped the seed of his labour.

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Mater Spei never run short of Top Achievers.



School Head Mr Munyere captioned Gomotsegang as motivating.



Head of House Duna, commends Gomotsegang for the hard work she put in her academics.



Class teacher Mr Stimela helped Gomotsegang with her study schedule.



Her aunt Mrs Morakanyane says Gomotsegang's is a good example to her cousins and siblings.



“Your background does not matter, but what matters is how you use the opportunities you have.”

‘I was eager to be best’

Finishing last is definitely not a good representation of one and leaves a bitter painful feeling but it is not as painful as finishing second best.

It is perhaps the fear of the pain of not being among the best that motivated Gomotsegang Modie of Mater Spei College to work hard towards securing a spot in the exclusive Top Achievers list; a courtesy extended to only ten (10) BGCSE students. The Makaleng born young lady confessed to her junior colleagues at her former school during the Top Achievers profiling exercise that she was tired of being second best, a statement the students applauded. Jabulani Munyere, Headmaster for Mater Spei College rubber stamped Gomotsegang's words that she was not a regular Prize Winner during the school prize giving ceremonies and monthly prizes despite being a consistent performer scoring good grades. "Her achievement is very motivating especially to those who still doubt their capabilities," Munyere commended. Head of academics and deputy school head at Gomotsegang's former school says the school does its best to nurture excellent students. Amongst other things the school does to motivate their students is rewarding them on a monthly basis after end of month tests and emphasized that a student must meet the minimum requirement set by the school to win a prize.

Gomotsegang was a humble but very committed student; this is according to her head of house at school Ms Peggy Robert Duna. "She is not academically gifted, her secret tactic is hard work," Duna shared. Duna says Gomotsegang started showing signs of brilliance at the end of form 4 when her performance improved from average. The Perpetua house captain says she and other teachers from her house have pep talks with students whenever there is a change of pattern in the student's performance, as a way of retaining good performance. Calvin Stimela, class teacher to Gomotsegang

does not detour from the story that her student was an average scholar but worked hard. "She was a much disciplined student and very responsible especially with her academics," said the proud teacher. Stimela further said that he helped his student with a study schedule and Gomotsegang was faithful to it, going an extra mile of even coming to school on weekends and school holidays.

At home Gomotsegang who was raised by her aunt after losing both parents is a very sensitive and emotional child, characters that are more revealed when she feels shouted at. In contrast to this she is a tough cookie as well and copes with even the toughest situations. Her aunt Mrs Keneilwe Morakanyane says her niece likes a peaceful and stable environment and relates well with her cousins at home. "We are very happy, she has made the family proud and set a good precedent for her young siblings," she said with a smile. Praises from her aunt are oozing like water from a fountain, she says Gomotsegang always counsels and guide her cousins if they seem to derail from the family values and principles. The supportive aunt says they excused Gomotsegang from house chores midweek so as to give her sufficient time to study, but they always yearned for the weekend as she (Gomotsegang) always took to the home kitchen her Food and Nutrition classes recipes.

Gomotsegang says she worked hard and never shied away from asking for help from her teachers and colleagues. "I worked with people," she advised. She went on to say that her triumph was however not an easy task as it came with various challenges. "Your background does not matter, but what matters is how you use the opportunities you have," she concluded.

Gomotsegang is one of the two students that represent Mater Spei College in the BGCSE Top Achievers in the BEC in collaboration with Ministry of Education Awards this year. After completing her A levels she wants to study cardiology.

“My dream was to get ten A* and I put it on my bedroom wall so that it could inspire me every morning.”



‘I am a team player’

Though he is rewarded for his individual brilliance for having finished amongst the best ten (10) students in the 2014 BGCSE, Daniel Kgauthe is hailed as a team player. The former St Joseph’s College student has won accolades for his schools from early days but now it is his turn to shine as he has qualified to be a Top Achiever.

Daniel had a very amazing academic aptitude in his first year of two at St Joseph’s as a Form 4 student he shocked teachers by scoring 98% in Chemistry a subject that is not ‘student friendly’ to many, his script had to be marked by different teachers his mark remained the same. This remarkable first impression earned him respect from his teachers who were left impressed by the young man’s research skills. Mr. Boniface Tshule, Daniel’s Head of House remembers him as a student who had positive attitude towards all his subjects and was always willing to help his peers and the school. Daniel volunteered in the school’s outreach project tutoring Mathematics and Science at Kgale Junior Secondary School and the students’ grades improved. He was also a Setswana Debate team member, representing the school in a couple of competitions and helped them win prizes.

The Top Achiever’s performance was consistent he finished as the overall both at Form 4 and at Form 5, a record his class teacher Ms. Tina Kgaswane was never surprised about. Kgaswane recalled an incident which once shocked her; she said one day she found Daniel reading when everyone was out enjoying family fun day organized by the school. “I asked him why he was out having fun with others he said he has had too much fun,” she shared. The class custodian echoed the Head of House’s words that Daniel was always willing to lend his peers a hand. Daniel was chosen Prefect after being nominated by his peers, a role he embraced but never wanted to be a Herd Boy as he thought it would take much of his academics time.

Raised by a single mother Ms. Ontefetse Kgauthe, Daniel the last born of two is the only man in the house, traditionally is the head of the house. Still with this added

responsibility he still managed his time well and saw off his set goal. The profiling team arrived at his house to a busy young man; he was helping his mother to put a couch in the living room from the veranda. “He is not just an academic, he is a handy man as well,” his mother is quick to praise. Her mother’s smile when she narrates the success story of her son is that of a happy and proud parent. She says her role as a parent was to support him and this she did without reservations as he always worked hard to maintain a consistent colourful performance. “Daniel read until very late in the night I would have to wake him up in the morning so that he is not late for school,” revealed Kgaswane. Daniel loves music and when he passed his JCE his mother bought her a cellphone so that he can listen to music from it, the cellphone later served as an internet gadget as he now used it more to surf the internet for research; how could he not assault Chemistry. Kgaswane is not just a mother she also doubled as her son’s Maths and Physics tutor though she is not a teacher herself.

To attain something one ought to start off by setting goals and for Daniel his ultimate goal was to get A* for all his ten (10) subjects. “My dream was to get ten A* and I put it on my bedroom wall so that it could inspire me every morning,” he said. Though he fall short of his set goal by only managing 6 A* he was not disappointed especially that he was rewarded with a Top Achiver’s accolade which comes with a scholarship to do A Levels. This scenario best suits Vince Lombardi’s quote; “Perfection is not attainable but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence.” Daniel pursued perfection but he managed an excellent performance. His arsenal to academic glory included, participation in class, regular revisions and making his own summary books especially for long syllabi.

Daniel’s performance has a trail, in 2012 he won an Excellence Award at JCE level for being the best in Integrated Science. The young man who confessed to having a heart to help people and see them happy again says he would like to study medicine when he completes his A Levels.



St Joseph’s College was certain Daniel will fly the flag high.



Though not a teacher, Daniels mother oftened helped her with Physics and Mathematics.



Class teacher Ms Kgaswane is not surprised by her students’ brilliance.



Head of House Mr Tshule is still moved by Daniel’s spirit of brotherhood.



Daniel knows the feeling of scooping Excellence Awards.





Despite being a relatively new school, Mmadinare Senior made their debut in the Top Achievers' standings.



Deputy School Head Mr Phutego is not shocked by Maduo as she was focused and hard working.



Maduo's Head of House Mr Mosweunyane commends her mother for being a supportive parent.



Class Teacher Mr Gaofiwe was a father figure to his students.



Maduo acknowledged her mother for the continuous support and guidance to her second Excellence Award.



"One's background does not matter if they know what is at stake."

The only hope

Being the only child, Maduo Makwati embraced the reality of being her parent's only hope to a better livelihood at the early stages of her education and never looked back. Raised by a single mother she made the best of her mother's nurturing and she finished as a BGCSE Top Achiever.

The former Mmadinare Senior Secondary student is focused, disciplined and hardworking; making her an epitome Top Achiever according to her former school teachers. Maduo is Mmadinare SSS' first and only Excellence Award recipient since the inception of the school in 2012 owing it to the high spirits by both the teaching staff, non-teaching staff and the students; they have been done proud by one of them. Deputy School Head and Head of Academics Mr. Bauni Phuthego whose relationship with Maduo dates back to her Junior School days where he was her HOD, beams with smiles as he shares what kind of a student the latter was. "We are not surprised that she is one of the ten Top Achievers, she has always been an excellent performer," he alluded. Phuthego further noted that Maduo could have done better under improved circumstances but she adapted to the environment none the less.

Mr. Edwin Mosweunyane was Maduo's Head of House and like the entire Mmadinare Senior Community he is happy and perhaps the happiest of them all. The excited Mosweunyane constantly pauses during the interview not because he is running of words, but as a gesture that reveals his astonishment and relief in Maduo's success despite the odds staked against her. "Maduo was enthusiastic and hardworking; her teachers always gave a positive account of her," he applauded. Mosweunyane credited Maduo's discipline and dedication to her parent's involvement in her studies saying the mother was always in contact with the school and visited every month from Selibe Phikwe where she works. Maduo's class teacher during her tenure at Mmmadinare SSS Mr. Ookeditse Gaofiwe also got a pat on the back from his supervisor who says he played a father figure to his class hence their good performance and Maduo ultimately becoming a Top Achiever. Gaofiwe

who has always had a class to oversee in his sixteen years teaching experience says he laid down expectations to his class and they worked together to uphold same. About Maduo he said she was a typical student who related well with other students and was a focused student.

Regular guidance of her child and consultation with her teachers has paid good dividends for Ms. Kefilwe Makwati, Maduo's mother: The seemingly emotional single mother's face resembles relief, joy and pride as she gives an account of her daughter. She confesses that Maduo has always been her only hope to take the family to greater heights, something she has more reason to be confident about now. Her mother captions her as a shy and reserved person, but this she says does not stop her from having mother to daughter chats and share with her lessons of life. "My daughter has respect for me and is very dedicated to her school work," she acknowledged. Despite these sound qualities Makwati says she was not expecting that her daughter will finish amongst the best ten students in the entire country, it is a big achievement she confirmed. Even Maduo herself is still amazed by her achievement despite having gone into the examination room confident she will be rewarded with a Top Achievers' badge; living the moment is unbelievable.

"One's background does not matter if they know what is at stake," said the Top Achiever: Maduo highlighted 2014's Golden Star Kago Goveya as her inspiration to excellence as they are from similar backgrounds. Maduo credited her success to her mother and relatives for always being there for her; she also thanked the teachers for believing in her and seeing potential she did not see in herself. Maduo knows the feeling of winning an Excellence Award; in 2013 she walked away with Best in English award under the JCE category. She says the dress her mother bought her for the ceremony was so beautiful it inspired her to another Excellence Award accolade because she wanted another beautiful dress and shoes. The young lady who enjoys spending her spare time at the cattle post aspires to be Hydro Geologist or Actuarial Scientist.

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