

UB NEWS

Official University of Botswana Newsletter



www.ub.bw

November / December 2018

MINISTRY TAPS INTO UB EXPERTISE



Dean, Faculty of Science, Professor Julius Athlopheng, Deputy Vice Chancellor- Finance and Administration, Mr Mendel Nlanda and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Mr Solomon Sekwakwa.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has signed a three year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Botswana through which government will now be able to utilize expertise at the University in policy development, analysis and implementation.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Mr Solomon Sekwakwa, said at the signing ceremony on November 19, 2018 that the MoU acknowledged that while UB had a well-established fully functional training and research capacity, the ministry had limited capacity to do fully-fledged research.

The MoU, therefore, signifies formal collaborative working relationship between the

ministry and UB in areas of economic research, macroeconomic forecasting, policy analysis and capacity building in wealth accounting and natural capital accounting.

Mr Sekwakwa said the arrangement would help in containing costs of hiring international expertise when UB was well endowed with experts who could do a good or even a better job in helping government in such areas.

In addition, it would help in building local capacity, he said, noting that during international events they would be able to have UB experts accompanying them to help in policy articulation and analysis.

Speaking on behalf of UB, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, Mr

Mendel Nlanda, said the signing of the MoU came at the right time as the University had initiated a process to establish a Consultancy Bureau.

Mr Nlanda said the University of Botswana Consultancy Bureau (UBCB) was a fundamental aspect of the University's Enterprise Strategy designed to guide the institution to generate third stream income.

"The University's Department of Economics and the Department of Environmental Science, which shall also be collaborators for purposes of this MoU, will benefit immensely from the work of UBCB," he said.

INSIDE:

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|
| 2 | UB CHRISTIAN UNION DONATES HOUSE IN LOROLWANE VILLAGE | 8 | POLICY IMPLICATIONS ON ELDERLY POPULATION UNDER SPOTLIGHT |
| 4 | MECHANICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATE WINS RHODES SCHOLARSHIP | 10 | US ENVOY VISIT IGNITES HOPE FOR ORI |
| 6 | AFRICA'S FIRST EVER IDW PEPS UP MINISTER | 12 | PROFESSOR MOKGWATHI INDUCTED IN SPORTS HALL OF FAME |

UB CHRISTIAN UNION DONATES HOUSE IN LOROLWANE VILLAGE

The University of Botswana Careers and Counselling Unit in collaboration with UB Christian Union has donated a refurbished house to an underprivileged 34-year old man of Lorolwane village, about 120km south of Kanye.

The beneficiary was Mr Oarabile Gaanakang, a congenitally epileptic and psychiatric patient, whose condition degenerated when he was around 25 years old. Mr Gaanakang who has lost all his parents stays alone in the yard which belonged to his father and just out of compassion receives care from some of his neighbours.

Welcoming guests at the donation ceremony, Kgosi Matlhoakhosi Matlho of Lorolwane village, expressed gratitude for the good gesture. He said given Lorolwane was 120km away from Kanye where they got services, such rendered everything expensive for them.

Kgosi Matlho said the project was a good donation more so that not everyone could afford to build such a structure for themselves. He thanked the UB Christian Union for choosing to donate to the Lorolwane community.

Giving an overview of the project, Ms Margaret Keolebogile Semphadile from the UB Careers and Counselling Unit, said UB volunteered their services in collaboration with the UB Christian Union. She added that the Union also used the long school vacation to assist with tutoring students in Lorolwane.

The UB Job Placement Unit initiated the project under its Graduate Employability initiative. Ms Semphadile said the project was identified during the Union's two week outreach programme during which students offered tutorial classes to Lorolwane Primary School upper level students.

During their stay in the village they identified the house and the need to assist the beneficiary. "The house was in a very bad condition with a lot of cracks all over, no ventilation, no door and poor roofing which leaked when it rained. Looking at the state of



Ms Gadifele Tsiripane receives the house on behalf of Mr Oarabile Gaanakang.

the patient and the condition of the house, we felt there was a need for a quick intervention to help where possible, considering the fact that we were also approaching the rainy season with a forecast of prolonged heavy rains," said Semphadile. She said the Union's good work would not go unnoticed.

Ms Nthutang said the Union's good work had touched hearts and the wish was for the University to continue doing good for other less fortunate. She informed the gathering that the recipient, who had been admitted to

hospital, was recovering and would find his house complete and ready for occupation.

Ms Nthutang thanked UB management and community for the support they continued to render the Department. She revealed that the students financed the project from their pockets.

Receiving the house on behalf of Mr Gaanakang, Ms Gadifele Tsiripane, thanked UB and informed the gathering that Mr Gaanakang was recovering well.



Group photo in front of the house.

YOUNG WOMAN ATTAINS PhD AT 29



Dr Tshepo Mogapaesi counts herself as one of a few women who have attained a PhD in Law before the age of 30.



Indeed dynamite comes in small packages! She is just 29 years old but she already wears the title and she is addressed as Dr Tshepo Tshepi Mogapaesi. This makes her one of a

Vice Chancellor Forges Partnerships In Dubai

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Norris, recently visited Dubai as part of the University of Botswana's efforts to forge academic and industrial partnerships.

Professor Norris held discussions with Bauerfiend (one of the largest manufacturers of prosthetic and orthotic devices in the world) to explore possibilities of offering Bachelors and Masters Degree Programmes in Prosthetics and Orthotics at UB.

The company expressed great interest in assisting the University of Botswana develop Prosthetics and Orthotics Curriculum. Additionally, the company expressed interest to set up a workshop for student training and manufacturing of prostheses (artificial limbs) and orthoses (braces, callipers, neck collars etc).



few, if not the third Motswana woman to have attained a PhD in Law before the age of 30.

"I'm so glad to share good news. I just graduated with PhD in Law from North West University at just 29 yrs. I have added to a few black women in Africa who have PhDs before the age 30 years. I am one of a few Batswana women with PhDs in Law (I know only two)," says Dr Mogapaesi who is now a lecturer in the University of Botswana Department of Law.

A 2012 University of Botswana Bachelor of Laws Degree graduate, Dr. Mogapaesi's passion for legal academia was unearthed when she undertook her LAW 535 mini-dissertation project as part of her LL.B programme under the supervision of Dr. Rowland Cole.

She says Dr. Cole encouraged her to consider enrolling for a Masters' Degree upon completion of her LL.B Degree. Acting on the advice of her former supervisor and the zeal to follow her passion, Dr. Mogapaesi registered for a taught Masters in Labour Law with the North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus) in South Africa in 2013.

As the only international student in the Labour Law class, Dr. Mogapaesi says she enjoyed her studies in South Africa because she was warmly welcomed and received tremendous support from the North-West University (NWU) academic and support staff.

As part of her Masters' programme, she authored a mini-dissertation under the supervision of Dr. Anri Botes which interrogated the failures of the Employment Act of Botswana to address sexual harassment

in the workplace.

Upon completion of the Masters programme, Dr. Mogapaesi says she wanted to challenge herself and fully harness the passion she had for legal research. As a result, she registered for a Doctor of Laws programme with NWU and successfully graduated at 29 years old, making her the youngest and third Motswana woman to obtain this highest qualification in law.

Her doctoral thesis sought to argue for the use of labour law as an avenue to address forced labour in South Africa, which she found to be popularly addressed through criminal law. This argument derives support from the fact that whilst forced labour is a criminal offence, it results in the violation of the labour and employment rights of its victims, and the criminal law approach barely addresses these violations. She also argues for the establishment of a separate legislative framework addressing forced labour that is separate from the human trafficking framework. Her doctoral thesis promoter is Dr. Anri Botes.

Dr. Mogapaesi has been working as a full-time lecturer in law at UB for two years and says for now she is interested in developing her academic career. She regards herself as a social justice enthusiast and humanitarian.

She is a feminist, and is interested in using her academic career to advocate for the rights of women and to empower the girl child in Botswana. Dr. Mogapaesi says she has always received strong support from her family, and that her parents and siblings had always supported her dreams to be what she is today.

Ten Students receive Barclays F. G. Mogae Scholarship



The 10 scholarship recipients with Barclays and UB management.

Ten students are pursuing their Masters Degrees in various disciplines at the University of Botswana this academic year, thanks to the Barclays Bank F. G. Mogae Scholarship Fund.

The students each received P70 000 per academic year to pursue graduate studies in mechanical engineering; environmental science; wildlife management; economics; archives and records management, and human resource management.

The Barclays Bank F. G. Mogae Scholarship Fund was established in 2008 to empower Botswana citizens by furthering their education and giving them an opportunity to grow their skillset.

To date, the Scholarship Fund has supported 38 beneficiaries who have not only gained ground individually from this initiative but whose academic development has trickled down to their respective workplaces and communities.

Speaking at the launch of the sponsorship at the University of Botswana on November 26, 2018, a director at Barclays Bank Botswana, Ms Lesley Bradly, highlighted that a majority of scholarship recipients studied at UB.

Ms Bradly said following Barclays Africa Group Limited's announcement of an increase of R210 million to the charitable CEO Fund last year, 3000 university students across all 10 Barclays Africa markets stood a chance to benefit from the prestigious scholarship fund for the current academic year.

In June this year, Barclays Bank Botswana also announced an investment of P3 million into the Barclays Bank F. G. Mogae Scholarship Fund and the intention was to enroll 40 new scholarship recipients this year.

"The ten young recipients that we are here to honour today form part of the 40 and we are proud to welcome them to the Barclays family," said Ms Bradly. She thanked the UB Scholarship Committee for presenting the most deserving candidates for the scholarship, noting that the University set the standard when it submitted a detailed and well-articulated recommendation report to the bank for final selection.

Meanwhile, Committee Chairperson, Dr Gaelebale Tshoko, said they received a total of 46 applicants out of which only 16 were shortlisted with only 10 recommended for final approval. Dr Tshoko said they selected top achievers and highly ambitious individuals who were involved in community development with exceptional attributes in both their academic and personal lives.

Speaking on behalf of the recipients, Mr Poloko Kefithile, promised to utilise the scholarship to benefit Botswana. Mr Kefithile said they were eager to contribute towards transforming Botswana into a knowledge-based economy through researches they would embark on.

He encouraged other corporate entities to emulate Barclays Bank because Botswana's drive towards a knowledge-based economy needed all hands on deck.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATE WINS RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

Twenty-three year old Dineo Serame, a University of Botswana graduate class of 2018 in Mechanical Engineering, has won the 2018 Rhodes Scholarship valued at around P3 million.

She will start her graduate studies at the University of Oxford in October 2019. Around 300 hopefuls from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland applied for the scholarship with only the best five shortlisted during interviews held at Rosebank Johannesburg, South Africa on November 17, 2018.

Of the five, Ms Serame emerged tops and the only female, beating some of the best graduates from the region to clinch the world's most prestigious scholarship that funds some of the world's finest minds to study at the world's finest university, the University of Oxford.

The other four are three Malawians and one Mosotho and Ms Serame was selected unanimously as the strongest of the candidates. At UB, Ms Serame was the only female student in a class of 30 students, writes Professor Thapelo Otlogetswe who was part of the panel that selected the recipients in his weekly column in the Telegraph newspaper, *The Linguist Chair*.

Professor Otlogetswe says whilst at UB, Ms Serame demonstrated leadership when she was appointed a student representative in the Department of Mechanical Engineering in 2016. She also sat in departmental board meetings and helped solve student problems.

"I encourage exceptional Botswana fourth year students and young graduates to apply for the scholarship in large numbers. We are very proud of Dineo's achievement and wish her all the best in her studies at Oxford," writes Professor Otlogetswe.

The Rhodes Scholarships are postgraduate awards supporting exceptional all-round students at the University of Oxford. Established in the will of Cecil Rhodes in 1902, the Rhodes



Ms Dineo Serame.

is the oldest and perhaps the most prestigious international scholarship programme in the world.

It targets students from Australia, Bermuda, Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Jamaica and the Commonwealth Caribbean, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Southern Africa (including South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland), Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine (SJLP), United Arab Emirates, United States, West Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

A Rhodes Scholarship covers: All University and College fees; the University application fee; a living stipend (£14,276 per annum 2016-17); one economy class airfare to Oxford at the start of the scholarship and one economy flight back to the student's home country at the conclusion of the scholarship.

The basic tenure of the scholarship is two years, subject always, and at all times, to satisfactory academic performance and personal conduct.

Age limits vary between constituencies and range from a minimum age limit of 18 to a maximum of 28 by October 1 of the year following selection. In most constituencies, the age limit is 24 or 25.

Applications for Rhodes Scholarships open during the spring and summer of the preceding year. Deadline varies per country but is around July-October of the preceding year one wishes to study.

<http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/>

UB HOSTS AFRICA'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL DATA WEEK

The University of Botswana took yet another giant step participating in the global world of scholarship by hosting the 2018 International Data Week. UB hosted the event on behalf of a consortia of key stakeholder institutions that had come together to drive Open Data Open Science movement.

The consortia included the Committee on Data (CODATA) of the International Science Council (ISC) and the ISC World Data System (ISC-WDS), the Research Data Alliance and the African Open Science Platform as well as the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology. The theme of the event was *Digital Frontiers of Global Science*.

It brought together more than 820 participants representing 66 countries. Botswana was represented by over 250 participants. Overall, the conference brought together professionals, researchers, policy makers, industry leaders, youth, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector to share knowledge and best practices in innovation and data management.

Speaking at the official opening of the conference, the President, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi, said such partnerships assisted in unlocking unlimited economic and societal opportunities arising from global collaboration between policy makers, scientific community, industry and communities.

President Masisi underscored the importance

of a knowledge-based economy and said like many other people, he foresaw Open Data and Open Science platforms as potential agents for fostering regional and continental integration through collaboration.

"There is therefore a need for global partnerships as well as funding if all of us are to benefit from opportunities brought about by open science and open data initiatives," said the President.

Dr Masisi said he was confident that with renowned experts and professionals in the conference, its outcomes would go a long way in assisting respective governments to position themselves to be part of the global knowledge-based economy.

"I would like to emphasise the fact that the outcomes of this conference will have far reaching implications for our national development agendas and our people who are eager to be part of the digital world," said Dr Masisi.

After all, he said it was a truism that in a knowledge or innovation driven society, data was the new currency besides being a renewable commodity.

The President said as such, there was need to enhance its multiple benefits and value chains. "What matters most should not be how sophisticated we are in managing data but how it assists us in improving the lives of the people we serve," added Dr Masisi.



President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi, Founding Director of the New Library of Alexandria, Prof Ismail Serageldin and Prof David Norris.

AFRICA'S FIRST EVER IDW PEPS UP MINISTER

"It is such a delight for me to be welcoming the 'world' to this momentous occasion to talk about data," said the Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology, Mr Ngaka Ngaka, at the start of the 2018 International Data Week (IDW) that the University of Botswana hosted in Gaborone, November.

Indeed, hosting the conference was an honour for the University and Botswana especially that it was the first ever to be held on African soil and the second such after Denver, USA about two years ago.

UB hosted this year's event on behalf of a consortia of key stakeholder institutions that came together to drive Open Data Open Science movement.

Mr Ngaka was upbeat that Botswana's hosting of the conference demonstrated her commitment to benefiting from the transformation precipitated by data revolution. He observed that it was through data driven research and innovation that knowledge-based economies which Botswana aspired would be built for the benefit of societies.

"Data is now the new global currency and the world is fast moving into the reality of Big Data," he said, adding "data is also central to all our global and national partnerships. Data, thus builds inclusive societies."

As if not to be outdone, Mrs Hilary Hanahoe, Research Data Alliance Secretary General, would summarise her experience thus: "Over two years ago, this week was more than a dream. A concrete desire to hold the second edition of International Data Week here in Gaborone."

To Mrs Hanahoe, the 2018 IDW was a dream that had been brought to realisation by many people, but was excited that from the outset Botswana Government supported the idea.

She said to have over 820 data professionals and researchers from all disciplines from across the globe, representing 66 countries to discuss and find solutions for the many data challenges that the world was currently facing, was an amazing success.

"Botswana shows its leadership and



Minister Ngaka Ngaka, President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi and Prof Ismail Serageldin.



Some of the 2018 IDW Conference delegates.

determination in this field nationally, regionally and globally in the wonderful backdrop of Gaborone. We are immensely grateful to the Government of Botswana, particularly Ministry of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology, for their generous support," said Mrs Hanahoe gratefully.

She could not also help thanking the University of Botswana for hosting the conference. She particularly thanked Dean of the Faculty Science, Professor Julius Athlhopeng, Head of the Department of Computer Science, Dr. Audrey Masizana

and HPC Project Coordinator, Dr. Tshiamo Motshegwa, who are members of the University of Botswana IDW Programme Committee and their members of staff for making this happen.

"Our local hosts, the University of Botswana on behalf of the Botswana Open Data Open Science Forum have been instrumental in the achievement of this complex event, the presence of over 250 participants from Botswana is an indication of their tireless efforts and dedication to the event not just internationally but locally too," reckoned Mrs Hanahoe.

ORI WELL-PLACED AS RESEARCH TORCH BEARER



Some of the staff members listening to Dr Nkomazana.



Dr Oathokwa Nkomazana.

As the University of Botswana embarks on a journey to intensify its research programmes, the Okavango Research Institute (ORI) is well placed to lead such efforts, says Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr Oathokwa Nkomazana.

Dr Nkomazana was speaking at a short Meet and Greet Session with ORI staff on November 16, 2018. She described ORI as UB's research flagship and torchbearer as the university embarks on a quest to become a centre for academic excellence.

"We look to ORI to set the bar in research hence we appreciate the role you play as the core of UB's research programmes," noted Dr Nkomazana.

She added that given the ever shifting educational environment and societal challenges, UB was forced to transition from being just a teaching institution to intensifying its research programmes.

"We should optimize what we already have. Therefore, we should not fail because we failed to use what we have but because of what we don't have," she said in reference to the wealth ORI is endowed with in terms of research scholars and other facilities.

In their comments, ORI staff appreciated the recent visits by UB executive management,



Professor Keta Mosepele and Dr Oathokwa Nkomazana listening to staff comments.

saying it demonstrated that indeed ORI was a core part of the university.

They said it was for the first time they were seeing such frequent visits by the executive management, among them the Vice Chancellor, in such a short space of time.

Among the suggestions made was to improve facilities at ORI and to equip and train staff to be able to execute the mandate of the institute well.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS ON ELDERLY POPULATION UNDER SPOTLIGHT

Despite the rapidly growing ageing population of the elderly in Botswana, like the rest of the world, they face an uncertain future because their needs and interest are largely invisible on Botswana policy agenda, says University of Botswana Head of the Department of Law.

Dr Bonolo Dinokopila was speaking at the Global Innovation Workshop on Ageing, Frailty and Resilience organised by the University of Botswana School of Madison and the University of Birmingham (UK) at the Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital Auditorium recently.

The objective of the workshop was to explore ageing, frailty and resilience in Botswana in the face of demographic transition. Dr Dinokopila decried the lack of laws that specifically spoke to the rights of older people to maintain and promote their rights, status, wellbeing, safety and security.

Such led to abusive situations by family members. That includes marginalisation, discrimination, neglect, isolation, poverty and depression as they age, added Dr Dinokopila.

He noted that those receiving old age grants were also open to financial abuse by other family members and may not fully benefit from such income. He said the problem was compounded by apparatuses such as the police and social workers who were not specifically integrated to deal with specific issues affecting elderly people besides lack of knowledge on their rights and financials to engage law advocates.

However, the main concern for the elderly population was healthcare provisions and pension, said Dr Dinokopila. He further stated that health challenges for the elderly were aggravated by small pension schemes that covered very few people due to the informality of most livelihood activities and employment.



Dr Bonolo Dinokopila (R), and Ms Thato Molefi with other workshop participants.

He said most societies were predominantly rural and much of the population operated outside the security of formal sector and wage-dependent markets.

He also made a number of recommendations aimed at improving the plight of the elderly, among them, awareness on ageing implications and that governments should include the ageing issue in policy planning by adapting national budgetary provision, boosting pension and social protection schemes, targeting health care, and supporting community and family care.

Clinical Psychologist, Ms Thato Molefi said elderly people were entitled to free health care in public health institutions but regretted that they struggled to access quality care because of capacity constraints and age-related barriers to access. Ms Molefi said Health services tended to be clinic-based and focused on acute conditions. She also said the health system did

not have the capacity to deal with complex needs of older people with multiple continuing conditions. She also balm healthcare workers' negative attitudes towards older people in that manageable health issues were overlooked or attributed to the ageing process, thereby resulting in low levels of functioning, poorer health outcomes and diminished quality of life.

Meanwhile, Pabalelong Hospice Sister, Ms Vinayi Chalil, also drew attention to long-term chronic conditions associated with growing old, such as heart disease, cancer, respiratory, hypertension, disorders and dementia. She stated that problems such as HIV epidemics, poor education outcomes, unemployment, and lack of access to basic services and general poverty and working age group affected the youth to provide care for their elders. "Older people's pensions are also often shared within households to supplement other social grant and wage income," observed Ms Chalil.



Workshop participants.

UB, BOU strengthen relations on research, training



Dr Daniel Tau and Professor David Norris seal the agreement.

The University of Botswana and Botswana Open University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to further strengthen their relations and collaborations in different areas of research and training to further increase Botswana's participation in higher education.

Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, signed on behalf of UB while Botswana Open University Chancellor and UB alumnus, Dr Daniel Tau, signed for his institution during a ceremony held at the UB Council Chamber on November 2, 2018. Speaking at the ceremony, Professor Norris said the two institutions contributed equally in terms of Botswana's human capital development and increasing access and participation in the higher education landscape.

"These are two compatible institutions in the sense that what they have been doing is almost similar. Therefore, that compatibility is very important as it will strengthen their relationship and collaboration to further increase participation in higher education,"

said Professor Norris.

He said both institutions offered on sight teaching and learning as well as distance learning which contributed immensely to the development of the nation and to assist it to transform to a knowledge-based economy.

On the other hand, Dr Tau appreciated UB's willingness to enter into an agreement through which the two institutions would collaborate given their vast experience and maturity. Dr said BOU had always wanted to work with UB but was stalled by lack of a framework to guide them.

He added that the signing of the MoU would allow their academia to work together freely. Dr Tau also assured UB management that he would send some of his staff members such as librarians and faculty administrators on a benchmarking exercise at UB.

"About 99 per cent of our administrators are UB alumni and benefited from the work of UB and it will remain Alma mater to us," said Dr Tau.

UB PARTNERS WITH EU IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAPACITY BUILDING

The University of Botswana in partnership with the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management recently embarked on a capacity building project for entrepreneurs in Botswana.

The project, supported by the European Investment Bank, was delivered through entrepreneurship development training programmes with a focus on business models, innovation and creativity, financial literacy and general skills required for business growth.

The aim of the training programmes was to equip local entrepreneurs to become bankable as well as to be able to stimulate growth in their businesses.

At the end of the training, UB in collaboration with the European Union Delegate Office hosted a Certificate Awarding Ceremony for trained entrepreneurs. The entrepreneurs were drilled on "Financial Literacy for Entrepreneurs" and "Women in Entrepreneurship; training for growth". The two programmes were delivered in September 2018 and October 2018 respectively.

Speaking at the certificate awarding ceremony, EU Ambassador, Mr Jan Sadek, said the Women in Entrepreneurship, Training for Growth Programme, viewed creativity and innovation as important factors for growth and sustainable business.

In that way it encouraged participants to set up businesses or develop their companies to create employment for others as well as reducing the high unemployment burden in Botswana.

Mr Sadek also appreciated the impact of the two programmes - the Financial Literacy for Entrepreneurs Programme and Women in Entrepreneurship Training - for growing large numbers of entrepreneurs.

A majority of the trainees were women entrepreneurs, who were empowered with strategic management tools as well as essential skills to enable them to access finance more easily.

DEBSWANA , UB AFFIRM INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS AS GATEWAY TO INNOVATION



Mr Balisi Bonyongo and Professor David Norris.

Debswana Managing Director, Mr Balisi Bonyongo says the University of Botswana is well positioned to play a leading role in forging collaborations with industry to drive research, innovation and technology that will assist the country transform from a minerals-based to knowledge-based economy.

Mr Bonyongo said this during a courtesy call on Vice Chancellor, Professor Norris, on November 16, 2018. His mission was to explore

areas of collaboration and encouraged the University to lead in the drive for a knowledge-based economy.

He said for Botswana to realise her vision, UB should engaged with a range of stakeholders, industry, government and academics, both nationally and internationally, to assist in tackling problems facing the country.

The University, he added, should embark on ground-breaking research or projects that

could be developed into marketable products or services.

Mr Bonyongo also assured the Vice Chancellor partnership with Debswana across a range of disciplines, including ICT, engineering and other projects to assist in research and problem solving.

He also said such would foster creativity and innovation as well as encourage post-graduates and even undergraduate students to take research seriously and come up with innovative ideas if provided with funded research work.

Mr Bonyongo also advised UB to set up an entrepreneurship school for tailor-made professional development courses. He was particularly concerned that Debswana spent huge sums of money to train staff outside the country.

"That's the money UB could be using to offset financial constraints," observed Mr Bonyongo.

Professor Norris said there were many talented students who deserved management's attention to nurture their talents to create a developmental impact on society.

He also acknowledged that it was upon the University to play a leading role in driving government efforts on innovation and technology. However, he decried inadequate research funding.

US ENVOY VISIT IGNITES HOPE FOR ORI

The recent visit to the University of Botswana's Okavango Research Institute (ORI) by a United States of America envoy has raised hope that the institute will soon receive more research funding from American entities.

Chargé d' Affaires, ad interim at the American Embassy in Gaborone, Ms Kali Jones, paid a short visit to ORI on November 16, 2018 during which she was briefed on the history and mandate of the institute which has been described as Botswana's premier research institute on one of the world's heritage sites, the Okavango Delta.

Acting ORI Director, Professor Keta Mosepele, appreciated the US for recognising ORI's role towards conservation of the Okavango Delta as one of the world's most precious natural resources. Professor Mosepele observed that while there had been financial assistance from



Part of the research scholars at ORI.

THIRTY-SEVEN GRADUATES RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS



UB Chancellor, Ms Linah Mohohlo (third left) and UB Foundation Chairman, Mr Satar Dada, with some of the scholarship recipients.

The University of Botswana Foundation has awarded scholarships to 37 deserving graduates to pursue Masters Degrees in various disciplines in the University for the 2018/19 academic year.

The graduates received their scholarships at the University on October 18, 2018. Speaking at the event, Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, said since its launch on March 24, 2000 as nonprofit Trust, the Foundation has ensured that many Batswana had access to higher learning.

Professor Norris said the Foundation has achieved a lot in its 18-year existence especially the establishment of the Graduate

Scholarship Endowment Fund which was set up in 2004 with an investment of over P1 million to ensure that as many Batswana as possible had access to high education. Since then it has made a number of contributions towards meeting the strategic objective of increasing the number of full time graduate students at the university.

Meanwhile, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr Oathokwa Nkomazana, said she appreciated contribution from the private sector and stakeholders to assist the University realise its objectives.

The UB Foundation together with other stakeholders such as the private sector mobilise

resources through a number of initiatives to make sure that they complement government efforts of making higher education accessible to as many students as possible.

Among stakeholders who contributed immensely to the foundation include American Northern Trust, Investec Asset Management, Stanbic Bank, Dynamic Insurance Brokers, Letshego Holdings, Motor Centre, IDM, BOCRA, AON, Debswana, Hollard Life Botswana, Banc ABC and Laurelton Diamond.

Meanwhile, other dignitaries who graced the award ceremony included UB Chancellor, Ms Linah Mohohlo, Bank of Botswana Governor, Mr Moses Pelaelo and UB Foundation Chairman, Mr Satar Dada.

the US before, such was, however, not enough to carry out some of the research in the delta.

He said on numerous occasions they applied for funding to several American entities but to no avail. In other words it had been a struggle for ORI to get access to such entities, he observed.

However, Professor Mosepele expressed hope and further wished that the visit by the envoy would possibly provide ORI with a unique opportunity to have access to American entities to get funding.

Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr Oathokwa Nkomazana, said as management they would do whatever was necessary to facilitate whatever was required between UB and the US embassy.

Dr Nkomazana who prefaced her short intervention reminiscing about the 1980s when America provided food assistance to Botswana, said UB valued the enduring relationship the US has enjoyed with various organs in Botswana.

She said it was imperative for UB to forge



Professor Keta Mosepele and Ms Kali Jones.

such relationships and collaborations especially in the face of dwindling resources.

On the other hand, Ms Jones said she had a vested interest in what ORI was doing given her professional background in conservation

and public health issues. She said the US government was keen on seeking partnerships with different institutions abroad.

I N D O N E S I A AMBASSADOR SEEKS UB COLLABORATION

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr Salman Al Farisi, visited the University of Botswana on November 19, 2018 to explore areas of cooperation in staff training, students exchange and research.

Speaking at a meeting with Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, the ambassador said his government was committed to strengthening collaborations with African countries. Such, said Mr Farisi, was initially done through introduction of African studies in literature and languages in Indonesian universities.

He said other areas that they would like to strengthen their relations in, included offering scholarships, staff exchange and training and students exchange programmes. They also wish to foster cultural exchanges between students and staff to promote global citizens who can appreciate other cultures.

Professor Norris on the other hand appreciated Mr Farisi's desire to work with the University of Botswana. He said such came at an opportune time since the government of Botswana wanted to transform the economy from resource to knowledge-based.

Consequently, Professor Norris appreciated the rich knowledge from Indonesian universities which UB could tap into to help transform and grow Botswana's economy.

"It is part of our vision and mission to impact life and we want human capital that can produce innovative and entrepreneurial knowledge to help boost our economy and to play a leading role to achieve such," said Professor Norris.



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr Salman Al Farisi with Professor David Norris.

PROF MOKGWATHI INDUCTED INTO SPORTS HALL OF FAME



Professor Martin Montsho Mokgwathi.

University of Botswana Deputy Vice Chancellor for Students Affairs, Professor Martin Montsho Mokgwathi, has been inducted into the Botswana Sports Hall of Fame.

Consequently, Professor Mokgwathi becomes the second UB member of staff to be inducted into the sports hall of fame. The first one was Director of Culture, Sports, and Recreation, Mr Raj Reuben Rathedi, who was inducted as one of the eight of Botswana's pioneering sports administrators and sportsmen at the inaugural ceremony in 2014.

Professor Mokgwathi was inducted together with Minister of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs, Ms Dorcas Makgato, Botswana National Sports Commission Chairperson, Mr Solly Reikeletseng and former Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) chairperson, Mr Negros Kgosietsile at the 5th Induction Ceremony held in Gaborone on November 15, 2018.

Other previous notable inductees are Botswana's fourth President, Lt Gen Dr Seretse Khama Ian Khama, former Vice Presidents, Lt Gen Mompoti Merafhe and Mr Peter Simako Otlaadising Mmusi, Mr Ishmael Bhamjee, former local amateur boxing great France Mabiletsa, legendary football goalkeeper and coach, Matshidiso Sexton Kowa, former Botswana Football Association (BFA) President,

Ray Molomo as well as the late Special Olympics Patron, Lady Olebile Masire.

Professor Mokgwathi is regarded by many as one of the best softball players to have come from Botswana. Having been introduced to the sport at a tender age of nine by two American Peace Corps, the late Bob Williams and Jerry Heretha, Professor Mokgwathi played for the Young American team while he was at St Joseph's College and progressed to Vikings Softball team and eventually the national softball team.

He played alongside softball great such as Labbeaus Peloewetse, Thuli Johnson and Bruce Palai. The quartet have been regarded as some of softball's best in the country. Professor Mokgwathi was part of the national team that travelled to the USA for a maiden appearance at the World Games in 1984 in Midland. The team was ranked 14th out of 16 countries.

A dedicated sports person, Professor Mokgwathi retired from active sport to coaching and administration. He coached at various levels including the national women's team. He was part of the founders of Special Olympics, Botswana Chapter in 1986 during which he was elected the first President, a position he held for four years.

Professor Mokgwathi has served as BNOC Vice President and led the Botswana Team to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games as Chef de Mission. He also served in the then Botswana National Sports Council executive committee as Vice Chairperson and currently sits in the commission board.

Professor Mokgwathi has worked for UB since 1984 where he served as lecturer in the Department of Physical Education, Health and Recreation and Director of the Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation, whose formation he spearheaded in 1998. Further, he has served as head of the Department of Physical Education, Health and Recreation.

As an academic, Professor Mokgwathi has been involved in conducting research in both physical education and sport and has produced articles in a number of journals. Among his many awards, is the Presidential Certificate of Honour awarded in 2015 for his contribution to the development of sport in Botswana.

