

UB NEWS

Official University of Botswana Newsletter



in pursuit of academic excellence

UB Academics Converse on Constitutional Matters



Solima, quam tu escenes aperem uturive rniaet? que re iam

The University of Botswana through the Department of Law on April 7, 2022 hosted a colloquium at the UB Conference Centre to deliberate on its contribution to the discussion pertaining to the review of the Constitution of Botswana. The colloquium was held under the premise that as a premier tertiary institution in Botswana, the University of Botswana bears a significant national responsibility to contribute to the discussion pertaining to the review of the Constitution of Botswana.

The essence of taking part in the exercise also derived from the university's vision of becoming a leading centre of academic excellence in Africa and the world as well as the university's mission to improve economic and social conditions for Botswana while advancing itself as a distinctively African university with a regional and international outlook. Consequently, the University of Botswana's participation in the constitutional review exercise was more imperative.

It was also in that context that the Department of Law organised the colloquium whose outcome was the submission of a position paper on the University of Botswana's contribution to the constitutional review process. The colloquium entailed presentation of synopses and was held in a conversational style.

Areas or issues of the constitution that

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LLC GAMES RETURN



*celebrating 40 years
of academic excellence*

INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT CRITICAL TO KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY



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Assistant Minister of Education and Skills Development, Mr Aubrey Lesaso, says the has expressed the hope that resolutions of the Department of Library and Information Studies 4th Biennial International Conference will contribute to the ministry's efforts towards achieving Vision 2036 goals.

The theme of the three-day conference held at the UB Indoor Sports Centre was Information and Knowledge Management in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and COVID-19 Era.

"The conference theme is very timely and appropriate as it resonates with the vision that we as Batswana have set for ourselves with considerable input from the citizens of Botswana," said Mr Lesaso.

He pointed out that emerging technologies were not only introducing new business models and disrupting old ways of doing things but were also changing everyday life. He added that it was critical to accelerate adoption of these technologies in that a knowledge-based economy which Botswana was driving towards, was anchored on 4IR technologies.

In relation to what would be the relevance

and value of knowledge management in an age where people seamlessly connected through ubiquitous technologies, Mr Lesaso said such must encompass identifying and contracting sources of knowledge or crowd sourcing.

Another area of interest he mentioned was the role of information and knowledge management in a world where individuals are increasingly being made redundant and replaced by robots to perform both repetitive and highly complex work. To that end, Mr Lesaso said localizing global knowledge was critical besides sourcing relevant data and ensuring that such data were clean prior to analysis. In addition, he explained that connectedness to the Internet of Things had potential for creation of knowledge but underscored the importance of ensuring safety and privacy of employees.

Speaking at the same conference, Acting Vice Chancellor, Mrs Motsei Rapelana, underscored the importance of information and knowledge because without them one loses their power.



Prof Nwaigwe Wins Best Poster Award at International Sustainable Energy Conference



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UB ACADEMICS from page 1

were interrogated included the constitutional making process, fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, citizenship, the Executive, Parliament as well as Ntlo Ya Dikgosi. Discussions further centred around issues pertaining to councils and local governance, the Judiciary, institutions supporting democracy, electoral process, constitutional amendment process, the public service and finance.

In participating in the constitutional review exercise, the University of Botswana noted that constitutional reviews were not unique to Botswana. Such reviews are undertaken to make the constitution as the supreme law of the country to keep pace with constitutional developments that were not anticipated at the time of adoption.

That further derived from the fact that every society is in a state of flux hence its laws must, therefore, adapt themselves to meet the exigencies of the ever-changing developmental imperatives of society. To that end, as a premier tertiary institution in Botswana, the University of Botswana bears a significant national responsibility to contribute to the discussion pertaining to the review of the Constitution of Botswana.

UB Chancellor, Ms Tebelelo Seretse, commended the Department of Law for organising the colloquium, saying it marked a deliberate effort by the University of Botswana to take a lead in an exercise of such importance



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to the nation. Ms Seretse observed that given that Botswana had decided to chart a new path into the future for its people through a constitutional review process, it was critical for the University of Botswana to participate in the process.

"Vice Chancellor, I am grateful and believe Batswana are also grateful that their university has deemed it fit to lead in the process and discuss various constitutional issues which

will assist the Commission in making its recommendations to His Excellency the President, Dr Eric Keabetswe Mokweetsi Masisi and his government," said the Chancellor. He thanked the Vice Chancellor's office for funding the symposium and bringing all participants under one roof to debate and interrogate constitutional issues, which should inform the broader deliberations in this process.

SQUARE ALUMNI FOUNDATION DONATES LAPTOPS TO THREE PHARMACY STUDENTS

Square Alumni Foundation from the United Kingdom has donated laptops to three pharmacy students. Speaking at the handing over ceremony hosted at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Dean of the faculty, Professor Ishmael Kasvosve thanked Square Alumni foundation for their generosity, saying it would aid the pharmacy students to pursue academic excellence with ease.

Professor Kasvosve noted that the laptops will remain the property of the University of Botswana until the students complete their studies as per agreement with the Square Alumni Foundation. He expressed gratitude that the Foundation had been a key partner to the School of Pharmacy since its inception. In addition, he said Square Alumni Foundation had committed itself to continually supporting first- and second-year pharmacy students with stationary to help improve their academic performance. Professor Kasvosve advised the students to use the laptops accordingly. That would turn open up more opportunities for more students and also encourage Square Alumni Foundation to avail further assistance.

Head of the School of Pharmacy, Professor Paul Chukwuemeka Adiukwu, stated that students who received the laptops were chosen among the less fortunate. He further stated that the intention of the Square Alumni foundation was to help students who were in dire need in Sub-Saharan Africa. Professor Adiukwu mentioned that such would also improve e-Learning in the University.

Professor Adiukwu also said as part of the Square Alumni Foundation requirements, a committee was set up to ensure procedure

DR STONE AWARDED FULLBRIGHT RESEARCH GRANT



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Dr Moren Tibabo Stone has been awarded a research grant to participate in the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Programme from January to October 2022. The Fulbright Visiting Scholar Programme is a flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the US government.

It is designed to “increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” Fulbright Research Grants are awarded to researchers and scholars of foreign nationals to conduct research in the United States of America for six to nine months at US universities or other appropriate institutions.

The selection to participate in this programme is open to the public and very competitive. It is done on the basis of quality and feasibility of the candidate's proposal as described in the Statement of Grant Purpose as well as academic or professional record.

It also takes into account personal qualifications, a productive scholarly record, and whose projects relate directly to their on-going teaching and/or research responsibilities. Another factor is the extent to which the candidate and the project will help to advance the Fulbright aim of promoting mutual understanding among nations through engagement in the host community, among other activities.

During his stay in the USA, Dr Stone will be

bi-hosted by the Department of Environmental Sciences and the Center for African Studies under the auspices of the University of Florida. The University of Florida's Center for African Studies supports a large and comprehensive multi and interdisciplinary programme in African Studies.

The Center is one of the only 10 currently funded US Department of Education “National Resource Centers for Africa,” and one of the major African Studies programmes in the US. While in the USA, Dr Stone will be able to make at least three formal presentations of his research, and will be invited to participate fully in an extensive programme of talks, seminars and conferences.

Dr Stone's main research in the USA will focus on the relationship between protected areas, community livelihoods and tourism relationships. His research is triggered by the consequential outcomes of encounters engulfing the conservation and development nexus, challenging science to find interventions to natural resources conservation and to improve community livelihoods through the adoption of tourism as a livelihood option.

Revealing the ambiguities in environmental discourses and the realities of what is actually happening on the ground is subject to how the conservation and development movement is perceived from different standpoints made available by different research frameworks.

Thoughtfulness to the various interests of stakeholders is indispensable in meeting the difficult challenges facing protected areas, community livelihoods and tourism efforts in Botswana and elsewhere. Therefore, in view of the challenges of community-based tourism (CBT), it is contentious whether the development of CBT is positive for participant communities or whether it could negatively and irreversibly transform them.

From this standpoint, it is important to understand why there is such variance in terms of community participation and benefit from tourism between the global south and global north. Tackling such knowledge gaps necessitates more empirical-contextual inquiries and longitudinal case studies, rather than relying on theoretical-normative debates.

Therefore, Dr Stone's research is geared towards comparing experiences of the global South with those of the global North to benchmark, with the aim to assist the global South to discern processes and possibly planning which the global North engages in to effectively participate in tourism that benefits communities. The Yellowstone National Park and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) in the USA and the Chobe National Park and Moremi Game Reserve in Botswana will provide the cases to test Dr Stone research.

was followed appropriate and that deserving students benefited accordingly. He further added that consistent monitoring of students' grades would be conducted to measure impact. He revealed that six students had applied for the donation but after the screening process only three were selected for the donation. The Square Alumni Foundation is a charitable organisation registered with the United Kingdom Charity Commission, focusing support on Pharmacy Education in Sub-Saharan Africa. Mr Philip Harrison who was part of the White Coat ceremony for UB pharmacy students and member of the Square Alumni

Foundation had earlier on mentioned that the foundation's intent was to help grow the pharmacy profession in Sub-Saharan Africa. As such, donations to unprivileged students was crucial. Present at the ceremony was Dr. Joyce Kgatlwane of the School of Pharmacy. On receiving the donation, Mr Keletso Mbengera said the laptops were a multi-functional tool hence best suited for learning. Ms Anntonette Molaodi and Ms Kelebogile Mbambo also expressed excitement and gratitude at the donation. The students said the donation would play a key role in improving their grades.



Professor Kevin N. Nwaigwe of the Department of Mechanical Engineering has won the best poster award during the 2nd International Sustainable Energy Conference 2022 (ISEC 2022) held in Graz, Austria on April 5-7, 2022. The award-winning poster is titled 'Energy and Exergy Analysis of a Flat Plate Collector using a Pumped Solar Water Heating System'.

The poster's co-authors include Kabo Kashamba, Tihalefo P. Letsholo, and Okatoseng T. Masoso. The second edition of ISEC 2022 had over 550 registered participants and over 100 posters.

Announcing the award, the Poster Review Committee Chairman, Professor Dr Hans Schnitzer, noted that all seven members of the committee made independent assessment of all posters and compiled a cumulative score. He noted that the best poster emerged from over 100 posters assessed. Professor Schnitzer congratulated Professor Nwaigwe for achieving this feat and for the outstanding research.

In his response, Professor Nwaigwe expressed his gratitude for his poster to be voted the best and thanked the committee for the excellent review. He also thanked his students who worked under his supervision towards actualizing the work. Prof Nwaigwe promised to keep the research fire burning.

Prof Nwaigwe presented two posters and an oral paper during the conference. The award was presented during the closing ceremony of the conference, with over 500 participants on site and many others online.

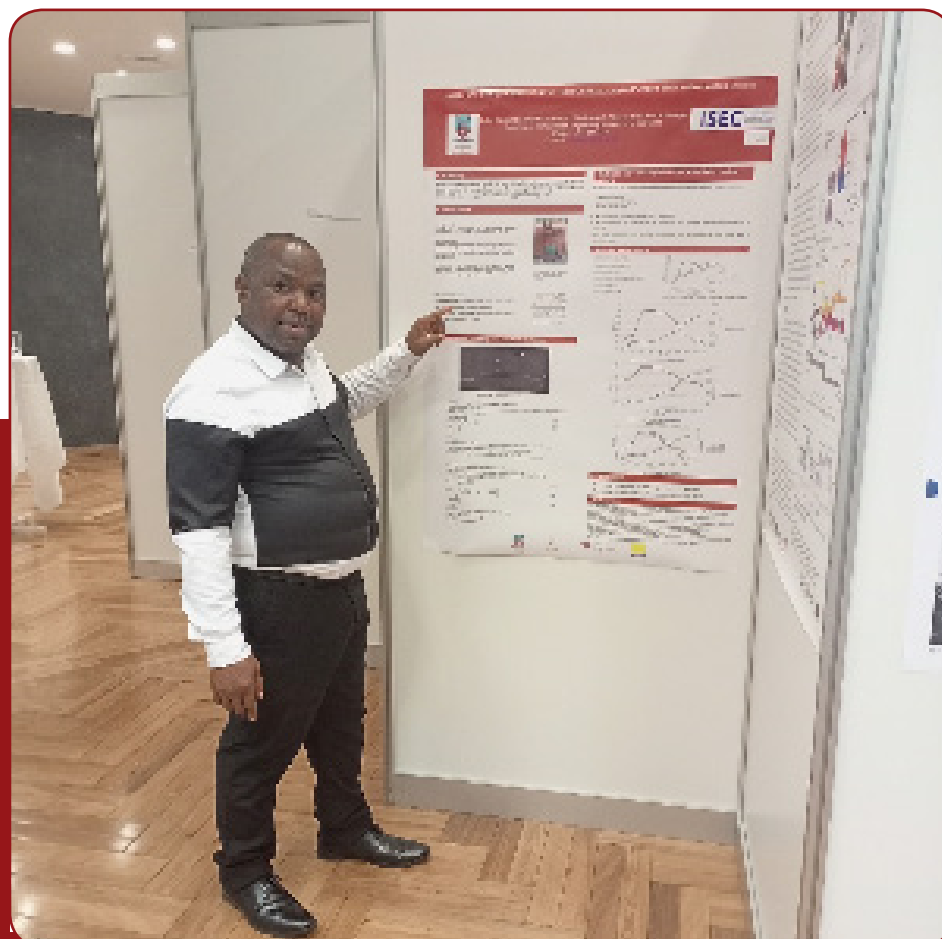
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to improve economic and social conditions for the Nation while advancing itself as a distinctively African university with a regional and international outlook.

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VAPA PRESENTS THE LUNCH HOUR OPEN MIC SESSION



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The Department of Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) recently hosted The Lunch Hour Open Mic session with the aim of showcasing and unearthing talent in the University of Botswana. Participants were drawn from different faculties in the University.

Speaking at the event, Mr Olebile Monyane said the intention of the show was to encourage and nurture talent in the University of Botswana besides celebrating artistic creativity. Mr Monyane said UB students should be given a platform to perform and express their talents. He noted that the visual and performing arts were not limited to students who study under the Department of Visual and Performing Arts only, but all students were encouraged to take part in the sessions.

Mr Monyane said VAPA which was under the Faculty of Humanities offered a Bachelor of Fine Arts Theater Studies, a full-time professional programme extending over eight semesters, aiming to produce qualified and seasoned theater partitioners focusing on directing, playwriting, acting, movement and mime as well as design and technical theatre.

He explained that the intention was to host Lunch Hour Open Mic session every fortnight on Thursdays. He stated that the sessions featured drama, dance, singing, comedy, poetry, and live music performances and it was to open to the UB community.

One of the renditions was The Lion Sleeps Tonight by a UB musical band. Leading the proceedings was Obolokile Keetile, with performances by Wazha Kloi who sang a Sam Smith piece, followed by Lisa Chise performing a poem penned to and about her friend.

Mr Joba Decider's poem was an inspirational piece about love. Mr Laone Mothatego performed his poetic piece on love not reciprocated. Pearl and UB band gave an extended version of the The Lion Sleeps tonight while Mr Obolokile Mompoloki Keetile and the

UB band gave a gospel piece.

Consequently, Mr Monyane said the Lunch Hour Open Mic Session would eventually grow to greater heights and have a fanbase together with a large following in and out of campus. He said VAPA intended to host more shows in the near future.



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USING ART AS A THERAPY

The Arts and Crafts Therapy group was initiated beginning of 2021 with female students using recycled material to make carpets, among other things. The purpose was to engage students in positive and refreshing activities during their spare time. Through interactions with students, some disclosed that they felt lonely and bored which sometimes led them to indulge in alcohol among other social ills. They also believe that COVID-19 has made things even worse for them but to avoid stress and depression, they agreed to learn some knitting and sewing skills using recycled materials. Some students viewed this as part of Art Therapy.

Students felt that they had benefitted in the training and would like more students to benefit through this group.

Both male and female students are welcome and those who are interested should enquire @ 73032515.

Here they share their experiences:

Noma Tapologo

I am Norma Tapologo from Sefhophe, some kilometers from Selebi Phikwe mining town. I am in my 3rd year of Electrical Engineering pursuit in the University of Botswana. Studying engineering requires one to burn a candle at both ends and this resulted in me becoming workaholic student if you get what I mean.

The relentless course demands, and my poor study habits led to unhealthy eating habits, sleepless nights, falling behind in course work, putting off work that needed to be done and emotional challenges. I became stressed, panicky, lost weight, isolated myself, and started doubting my capability. I was depressed and not coping, period.

One morning I decided to get help and my feet carried me to the Careers and Counselling Services in UB. I remember sobbing like a toddler in front of a Career Counsellor. She showed a lot of empathy, spoke with wisdom and I felt motherly care.



When I was invited to the Arts and Crafts Club, I did not hesitate, I accepted the invitation instantly. I had no idea that it would be so therapeutic. Ms Moapare provided me with most of the necessary material (recycled). I learnt how to make carpets. Whenever I felt down, worried or demoralized I would go into my bedroom and get creative.

I would use skills I have learnt to produce a piece of art and craft. I am now coping with the demands of Electrical Engineering thanks to Art Therapy and to God who led me to the counselling services that morning. His grace is continually sufficient so there is no shame in

admitting weakness.

DEPRESSION IS REAL. Ask for help, join a club - do whatever you can to combat depression. I recommend Art and Craft, it did me great good as I battled depression, and continues to keep me afloat. I am proud to showcase my art and craft product (INSERT)



BALEMOGI MONTSHIOA

My name is Balemogi Montshioa, a third-year student at University of Botswana studying BA in Counselling. I am going to talk about Arts and Crafts project whereby we make creative and design patterns using our own hands from textiles (mainly recycled materials). Our coordinator, Ms Moapare started the programme as part of 'Art Therapy' to help students relax, engage in positive activities and in the process learn new skills.

During the process I found that it was beneficial to me because I refreshed my mind when I took a break from schoolwork and relieved stress by keeping me engaged. I learned a new skill. It also helped me to be patient and to build teamwork.

At the start of the project, I did not have any clue of what we were going to do. Our coordinator showed us the steps involved to come up with a complete piece. She gave us materials needed and assisted us throughout the process. Step by step, I managed to master the technique with supervision. I am now in a state where I can start and finish the piece without supervision. This is an opportunity for students to create whatever one desires to foster creativity and provide a sense of accomplishment.

If anyone is interested in joining the group they can contact Ms Moapare @ 73032515.

Below is the second carpet that I made:



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UB ATHLETICS TEAM DOMINATES BOTESSA 2022 CHAMPIONSHIPS, WINS 20 MEDALS



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University of Botswana Athletics Team are this year's Botswana Tertiary Students Sports Association (BOTESSA) champions after winning 20 medals during competitions held at the National Stadium on April 7-8, 2022.

The first two Gold medals went to Olefile Koagile who won the 10 000m and 5000m men's races. UB Athletics team captain, Motlatsi Rante also won Gold in the women's 400m race and Silver in 200m.

In the 4x100 relay race, UB relay team comprising Onnetse Pilatwa, Primerose Masinga, Kgabiso Sekgobokgobo and Khumo Gaonakala also finished on the podium to win Gold. Not to be outdone Nyasha Mushawatu, Elsie Marata, Khumo Gaonakala and Motlatsi Rante also made UB proud winning Gold in the 4x400m relay.

Their male counterparts of Seabe Mugibelo, Clement Kwelagobe, Kealeboga Balemogi and Pheny Majama increased the Gold medal tally after winning the 4x400m men's relay.

In the women's 100m race, Khumo Gaonakala took third position to win a Bronze medal while Kelebogile Balemogi scooped silver in the Men's 400m hurdles race. Mothusi Boitshwarelo also won Silver in the men's 100m race. In field events, Kedibonye Dema won Silver medal in javelin.

Earlier on when welcoming guests and participants, Botswana National Sports Association (BNSC) Chief Executive Officer, Mr Tuelo Serufho, encouraged participants to use such competitions to showcase their talents and break into national teams.

Mr Moses Ngotwane Director at the Department of Skills Development in the Ministry of Employment, Labor, Productivity and Skills Development, stated that sport was an essential part of life. He said sport helped to build character and channel energy towards producing good results.

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UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA COLLOQUIUM QUOTABLE QUOTES



A Blow by Blow account from UB twitter page

Public opinion can be extremely dangerous in constitutional making process because it is sometimes irrational or constructed around strong beliefs that may not be necessarily of public interest - **Prof Austin de Drouillard**

Constitution must provide for one not to be denied the right to their citizenship of birth - **Dr Machaira-Mokobi on Dual Citizenship**

In third wave constitutions the tendency is to reduce the power of the president and distribute it among different structures of governance, is that what we are looking for? **Prof Bojosi Otlhogile**

hat is not coming up is why do we want direct election of the President. What is the nature of this presidency what are we looking for? **Prof Bojosi Otlhogile**

Death penalty must be replaced with whole life sentence if Botswana is to promote protection of rights for all - **Dr Machaira-Mokobi on the Death Penalty and Judicial Corporal Punishment**

Public opinion and public perception are not necessarily public interest - **Dr Machaira-Mokobi on the Death Penalty and Judicial Corporal Punishment**

Our laws cannot be legitimate if they dont serve the interests every Tom, Dick and Harry. Socio-economic rights are also important - **Prof Kenneth Acheampong on A Jurisprudence Plea for Inclusion of Socioeconomic Rights in the Constitution**

International law must have a bearing at national level and laws - **Dr Onkemetse Tshosa on The Place of International Law in National Law**

The review process of the constitution must entail multi-party participation and civic involvement and transparent feedback mechanisms - **Mr Tshepiso Ndzing-Makhamisa on Constitutional Making Process**

Freehold land must be given time frame and also make provision for reclamation of unused land - **comments from UB Facebook followers**

The most important thing is not what issues ordinary people raise and how they raise them but at the end it is how the Constitutional Review Commission theorise around them - **Prof Bojosi Otlhogile**

The Chief Justice must be elevated to preside over the apex court, the Court of Appeal. The buck must stop with Chief Justice - **Dr Onkemetse Tshosa**

I would recommend a two tier system where we have the senate and lower house to make law making process more robust - **Dr Onkemetse Tshosa**

Appointment of members of the Judiciary in other countries go through a democratic process - **Dr Onkemetse Tshosa**

The constitutional review process requires involvement of all interest groups to give the end product legitimacy - **Dr Onkemetse Tshosa**

Let us make it clear to the Constitutional review commission that the report must be made public so as to have a transparent and inclusive constitutional review process - **Mr Kealeboga Dipogiso**

Lets educate the people on what is required of them to make meaningful contributions to the constitutional review exercise. Engender a participatory process - **Mr Kealeboga Dipogiso**

We have to free this constitutional review exercise from political capture and hijacking by other social elites - **Mr Kealeboga Dipogiso**

The Botswana constitution comes short of addressing the ends given prevailing social inequalities in the country - **Mr Kealeboga Dipogiso**

What is important about a constitution is the ends in terms of socioeconomic issues. Otherwise it will beca useless constitution - **Mr Kealeboga Dipogiso**

Do we tinker with the current constitution or moving towards third phase constitutions as Batswana? This is the question we must answer - **Prof Bojosi Otlhogile**

Third wave constitutions are very long and detailed because they include new generation of rights to address emerging issues. Botswana constitution is still at 58 pages - **Prof Bojosi Otlhogile**

Constitutions by nature are political compromises - **Prof Bojosi Otlhogile**

The common assumption is that our constitution was imposed on us by the British but Batswana were involved in the drawing up of the constitution through different structures but with limited representation - **Prof Bojosi Otlhogile** Academics have researched on topics pertaining to constitutional review but our failure to shares these with Batswana to guide & enrich public debate is an indictment on us - **Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences Prof Tachilisa Balule**

Are we as Batswana for proportional representaion and what are the critical issues that we must address to avoid pitfalls? **Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences Prof Tachilisa Balule**

Academics must provide quality research to inform public debate and UB has contributed immensely in that respect to enrich debate on Constitutional review - **Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences Prof Tachilisa Balule**

UB academics must become opinion leaders in every national agenda. - **UB Chancellor Ms Tebelelo Seretse**

Facebook has given rise to pseudo experts hence academics must also rise to the occasion to give proper guidance to national discourse - **UB Chancellor Ms Tebelelo Seretse**

SVUTHO FOOTBALL CLUB WINS BASCO SUPER CUP 2022

Svutho Football Club are the Basco Super Cup 2022 champions after beating Abashanti Football Club 2-1 in the final played at the UB Stadium on April 29, 2022.

The University of Botswana Student Representative Council through its Ministry of Sports organised the football tournament which had been running since mid-February this year.

The game went for halftime with both sides locked at 0-0. However, 58 minutes into the game, Felix Kanyeto put Abashanti FC on the scoreboard to take the lead. On the other hand, Svutho FC kept on piling pressure on Abashanti FC defence. In the 73rd minute,

Thabang Bojosi leveled matters to make the score read 1-1. In the 81st minute, Eole Letshitshi increased the tally to 2-1 sending Svutho FC to lift the cup.

Meanwhile, in the Basco Super Cup Awards, Best Referee of the tournament went to Kakale Mbiko, Top goal score was scooped by Felix Kanyeto while Player of the tournament went to Gofiwa Lonao and Best coach of the tournament to Ryan Molefhe.

Gaborone City Mayor, Mr Father Maphongo and Hon. CCLR. Dominic Baoleki awarded both teams their medals. Thus, Abashanti FC got silver Medals while gold and a trophy went to

Svutho FC.

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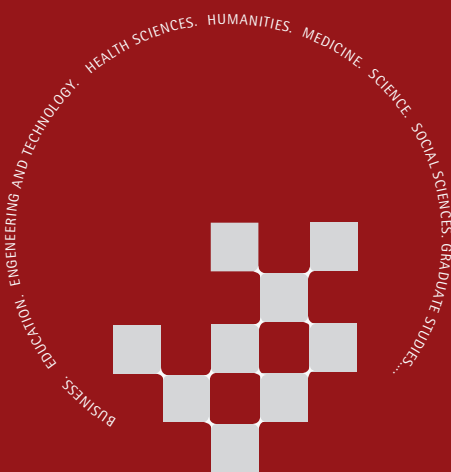
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