

JULY 2023



UBNEWS

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Yet another edition of UB News. In this edition we carry stories that showcase the University of Botswana's (UB) enduring efforts to shape futures, transform lives, and rebuild nations. One such interesting article is on Page 4. The article is about the recent collaboration between UB and the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) Consortium to launch a P1 million project geared towards fostering inclusivity for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Certainly, the project goes a long way in UB's pursuit for positive societal impact as part of its strategic goal of promoting inclusive and equitable education. Consequently, the initiative underscores the importance of accessibility, empowerment besides reaffirming UB's commitment to championing the rights and potential of every learner, notwithstanding their abilities. The outcome of this noble project is a broader societal change and a challenge to existing norms, perceptions, and practices related to disability. It will no doubt promote best practices that foster inclusive education. Most importantly is that in a world where knowledge knows no borders, UB's initiatives to help Liberia reconstruct its education system, underscore the transformative impact that institutions of higher learning can have beyond their immediate surroundings. Emerging from years of prolonged political internecine that claimed many lives, Liberia has been striving to revitalise its education sector and thanks to the University of Botswana, there is light at the end of the tunnel. The training of human capital that UB offers to Liberia not only signifies fruitful collaborative efforts between Botswana and Liberia but embodies a shared vision for a brighter future for the two states through capacity building. As UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris,

always reiterates, Africa's problems can only be solved through research done in Africa through university collaborations. By sharing its expertise, resources, and best practices, not only is the University contributing to the creation of a robust educational infrastructure in Liberia but also building a system that nurtures innovation, fosters critical thinking, and empowers the next generation of leaders, educators, and change-makers. Read more on this on Page 14. Meanwhile, don't forget to read about Ivanah Serumola on Page 10. Serumola is an innovative graduate who is proving that at the heart of this transformative force are learners who dare to dream, challenge the status quo, and envision a brighter future. Her creativity, ingenuity, and innovative spirit extend beyond her academic pursuits. She is as catalysts for progress as she reflects a deep commitment to making a difference.

Thank you and enjoy the read!

Thomas T. Nkhoma

Highlights....



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Department of English Encouraged to Leverage Fourth Industrial Spinoffs



Young innovators motivated to submit their ideas to the Innovation Center to assist in translating the ideas to working models. See Page 6.

UB AND AAP Consortium Launch P1 Million Project on Students with Intellectual, Developmental Disabilities

The University of Botswana (UB) and Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) consortium have launched a project titled: The Evaluation of Inclusive Education Programmes for Transition-Age Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Botswana and Ghana.

The project is a partnership of four institutions namely University of Botswana, Michigan State University (MSU), University of Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia, and University of Education, Ghana.

The launch was a sequel to a planning grant of approximately P1.1 million (US\$100 00) that Dr Boitumelo Mangope received under the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) grant programme, Partnerships for Innovative Research in Africa (PIRA). As such, the main objective of the launch was to introduce and promote the envisioned transition framework by the University of Botswana,

key stakeholders and partners from Michigan State University.

The researchers also used the opportunity to share preliminary findings of the project. As a community-based participatory research project on the transition of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), the aim was to develop an evidenced based and contextually relevant transition framework to guide stakeholders in implementing transition programmes from school to work for such learners.

The developed tool was envisioned to assist in accelerating and broadening the transition opportunities for this group of students.

Giving a keynote address, Centre for Continuing Education Director, Professor Richard Tabulawa, was upbeat that the project provided an innovative and transformative approach in the development of a culturally responsive transition programme aimed at

enhancing the social inclusion of people living with disabilities (PWDs) into the world of work. Professor Tabulawa underscored the need for PWDS to play a central role in informing and influencing decisions related to their inclusion. He said particular attention should be focused on what happened when young people with disabilities left school, the barriers or challenges they had to navigate and how they overcame them.

Professor Tabulawa decried that young people with disabilities were some of the most disadvantaged groups of youths transitioning from education to employment and yet they were not a target group of transition to work initiatives in countries such as Botswana and Ghana.

He lamented that transition to employment support systems was still failing young people with disabilities, resulting in reduced opportunities.



The workshop brought together participants from different backgrounds around the country.

“International and local statistics suggest overall general limited employment opportunities for people with disabilities,” he reckoned, noting that in Botswana, the low employment participation of young people with disabilities was an indicator of long-term and often lifelong disadvantage.

Consequently, Professor Tabulawa called for concerted efforts to break the link between disability and poverty such that there should be deliberate initiatives to create supportive employment pathways through projects such as the one UB and its partners was launching.

He noted that disability issues cut across all circles of life but to avoid fragmentation and duplication of efforts, it therefore called for collaboration of all stakeholders in order to open up access to participation in the community.

“I am happy to observe and applaud the fact that this project not only brought together scholars from across the globe (US, Australia and Ghana) but also Government sectors, Non-Governmental organisations, community, disability Organisations (NGOs), families of PWDs and people with disabilities themselves,” said Professor Tabulawa.

He reckoned that it was through such projects that the University of Botswana sought to support and generate enduring partnerships, both nationally and transnationally, with the intention to enhance full participation of this vulnerable population.



Professor Tabulawa emphasising a point that young people with disabilities are the most disadvantaged.

Meanwhile, AAP is a consortium of ten leading African universities (including the University of Botswana) and Michigan State University (MSU) founded in 2016. AAP is a collaborative and cross-disciplinary platform that seeks to address today's global challenges in a way that is sustainable, effective, and equitable. As such, the AAP has identified mutually defined challenges that fall into six (6) highly interrelated themes: Agri-Food

systems; Water, Energy, and the Environment; Culture; Youth Empowerment; Education; Health and Nutrition. ■



Principal investigator, Dr Boitumelo Mangope (2nd left) with workshop facilitators from Michigan State University.

Innovation Centre Receives Overwhelming Number of Applications

The recently launched University of Botswana Innovation Centre has received over 131 applications from members of the public who are eager to have their business projects accelerated or incubated to commercial stage.

The overwhelming response follows an open call by the University for submission of applications. It demonstrates the importance of the Centre as a much-needed development by the public.

The acceleration and incubation of projects is geared towards translating knowledge into viable commercial products. This will be achieved through applied research and development of prototypes to solve societal problems and challenges.

Furthermore, the Centre aims to facilitate the development of new services, processes and systems through research and product

development, innovation eco-system development and start-up incubation. The Center is further geared towards realisation of Botswana's efforts towards the strengthening of its national innovation capability framework and entrepreneurship development support by translating early-stage concepts into industrial products. Consequently, this will feed into the National Innovation Ecosystem at a higher level.

"It is encouraging to see such great interest and participation, with more than 130 entries at the inaugural stage of the centre. The University is confident that this speaks to its potential to deliver cutting-edge research solutions to real national and global issues. The onus is on all to get involved, and to demonstrate that indeed exceptional thinking and capability lay in the hallowed halls of the

University of Botswana and the wider nation," said University of Botswana Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Norris.

The University is confident that this speaks to its potential to deliver cutting-edge research solutions to real national and global issues. The onus is on all to get involved, and to demonstrate that indeed exceptional thinking and capability lay in the hallowed halls of the University of Botswana and the wider nation," said University of Botswana Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Norris.

As innovation submissions proceed to rigorous assessment, those whose projects are shortlisted will be notified to assist them towards growing their projects from proof-of-concept to market actualisation and delivery.



Improved International Office to Enhance International Process

University of Botswana intends to establish a comprehensive international office as part of its new organizational structure as well as to give impetus to the process of internationalisation. As such, the office will make sure that the ratio of international students is increased from five to 15 percent.

This emerged during a courtesy call the Turkish Ambassador to Botswana His Excellency Ahmet Akay paid on the Acting

Vice Chancellor, Mr Dawid Katzke, recently. Speaking during the visit, Mr Katzke said the UB International Office was currently not operating optimally hence the restructuring exercise would improve the situation. He observed that most of the international students were from SADC countries and the plan was to expand across the globe.

Furthermore, Mr Katzke hinted that the University had plans to build a post graduate

student village with facilities that would cater for their needs during their studies. He said such a move would make the institution more attractive to international students.

In response, Ambassador Akay said Turkey was open to cooperation opportunities. He added that through his office, UB would be connected to Turkey Universities for possible collaborations. ■

SOLTRAIN+ Trains Industry PLAYERS on Energy Audit/Assessment and Design of Solar Systems



Participants of the workshop with some of their facilitators.

SOLTRAIN+, the new phase of the Southern African Solar Thermal Training and Demonstration Initiative held a training workshop for the industry and academia on energy efficiency measures and design of thermal energy systems.

The training, which was held last month attracted participants from different companies and organisations including North Atlantic Consultancy, Capricon Solar, Hydrocon Green, CET Consultancy, Bokamoso Hospital, Westhood Agencies, Solar One, So Solar, BITRI, Emporium Legacy, some UB staff/students and others.

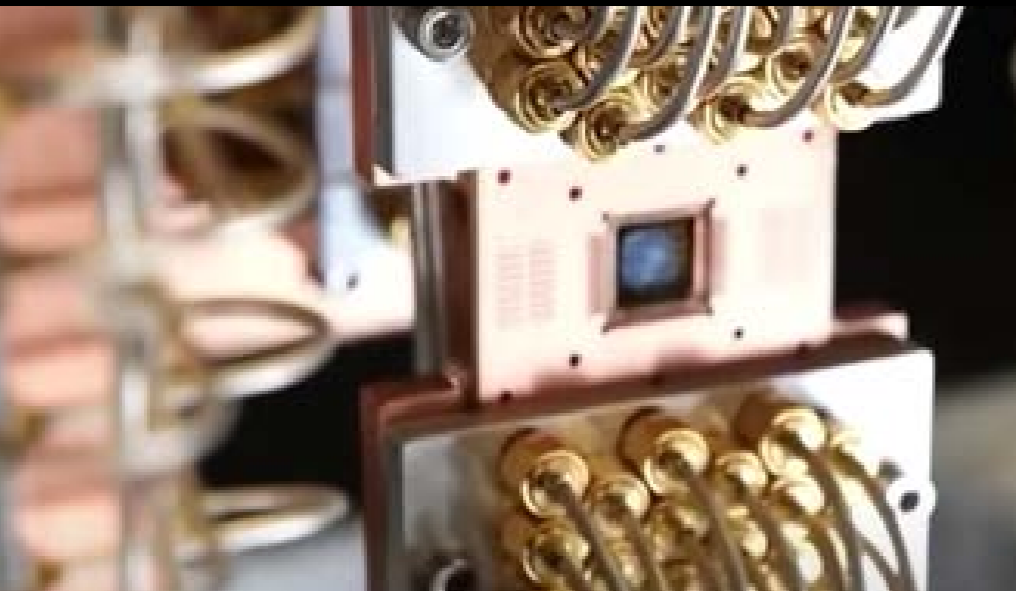
In his welcome remarks, Prof Oboetswe Motsamai – Director, Clean Energy Research Centre (CERC), thanked the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) for funding this project and the benefits that had been derived thereof in terms of capacity development and advocacy for renewable energy.

Responding, SOLTRAIN+ International Coordinator and Facilitator for Energy Audit Workshop, Mr WolfgangSol2 Gruber-Glatzl, expressed gratitude for the work that CERC conducted in the previous phases of the project and solicited support in accomplishing the new phase of the project.

He was accompanied by Mr Rudolf Moschik, who facilitated the workshop on design of solar systems.

Earlier in his speech, Professor Kevin Nwaigwe, SOLTRAIN+ Coordinator for Botswana, welcomed the visiting team from Austria, including the participants

UB and Technovalley Africa Collaboration to create Internship Opportunities for 25 000 Youths



University of Botswana and Technovalley Africa have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at creating internship opportunities for UB students and graduates. Technovalley is a global leading software consulting company offering training in artificial intelligence (AI), cyber security and data analysis, among others, and is currently setting up its Africa office in Botswana. According to Technovalley Africa Chairperson, Mrs Vidya Sanooj, approximately 25 000 youth in Botswana, among them University of

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Letsebe Among Triple Helix Conference Top Presenters



Ms Lametse Letsebe during one of her presentations.

Department of English Encouraged to Leverage Fourth Industrial Revolution Spinoffs



Professor Otlogetswe (left) is seen on UB leveraging Artificial Intelligence.

The Department of English in the Faculty of the Humanities has been encouraged to leverage spinoffs from the fourth Industrial Revolution especially Artificial Intelligence

for language and literature development through designated policies and infrastructure. This was highlighted at the opening ceremony of a three-day English Depart-

ment 12th International Conference held at UB under the theme "The Role of Language and Literature in the 4th Industrial Revolution" recently. The conference was held both physically and virtually.

Keynote speaker, A senior research fellow at the University of Free State, South Africa, Professor Lillian Atanga, pointed out how scholars feared emerging technologies eroding the traditional development of literature and language.

However, she observed that African linguists embrace the positives that Artificial Intelligence (AI) contributed to the development of African languages such as translations, voice to text and availability of literature online, among other benefits.

During the conference, participants from institutions across the globe discussed various topics in relation to Language and Literature in the 4IR era and its impact on institutions of higher learning such as the University of Botswana. ■

A University of Botswana (UB) staff member, Ms Lametse Letsebe's conference paper has been voted amongst the top best from Africa for a presentation at the Triple Helix International Conference held in LaSalle Ramon Llull University, Barcelona in Spain from 25th to 30th June 2023.

The paper Ms Letsebe presented was titled "Towards the Development of a Strategic Framework for Entrepreneurial Universities: A Case of Botswana Public Universities. Ms Letsebe is currently pursuing her PhD in Management Sciences: Organisational Leadership. As a PhD candidate, she continues to network and collaborate with other scholars to contribute to the body of knowledge in the field of entrepreneurial universi

Ms Letsebe was among participants from across the world attending the conference under the theme "Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities for Sustainable Development: Linking Education, Research

and Innovation to Achieve the SDGs and ESGs".

The keynote speaker at the conference was entrepreneurial universities founder, Professor Henry Etzkowitz as well as other outstanding scholars in the field of entrepreneurial universities.

The Triple Helix International Conference is a global forum that offers an international and multi-disciplinary venue with reputable scholars, policy makers and industry experts from the American, European, Asian Pacific and African regions to discuss the relationship between entrepreneurial universities, smart governments, efficient industry and committed civil society as well as challenges and solutions to SDGs and ESGs.

Letsebe In collaboration with ACEEU (Accreditation Council for entrepreneurial and engaged universities) the conference entails practical presentations, special sessions, panel discussions, pitching sessions and awards ceremony for the best entrepreneurial universities per region as well as the best

overall globally.

In Addition to the sessions, the conference afforded presenters the opportunity to explore the ecosystem of innovation of Barcelona. Today's challenges and demands require innovation and response through agile ecosystems that provide solutions for sustainable development with triple, quadruple, and quintuple helix strategies. Therefore, the aim of the conference was to encourage collaboration, professional investment, and partnerships between the helices. ■



Meet evanah serumola – visionary behind “I AM SMART” Board Game

Evanah Serumola playing the game with colleagues.

As the world grapples with the need for innovative and engaging approaches to education, one individual has emerged to be part of this driving force for change. Meet Evanah Serumola, the passionate founder of the groundbreaking “I AM SMART” board game, who is not only poised to revolutionise science education but do it in a unique and captivating way.

As a native from Semolale village in the Central District, Serumola's journey begins here at the University of Botswana (UB), where she dedicated herself to the pursuit of knowledge in science education. Set to graduate this October with a Bachelor's Degree in Science Education, specialising in Chemistry, Serumola's academic prowess underpins her ambitious endeavours with a

solid foundation. As a Future Africa Leaders Foundation Ambassador, Serumola's passion extends far beyond the realm of business.

Her dedication and commitment towards empowering the youth and building a generation of well-informed individuals are the driving force behind her work. Through her work as an ambassador, Serumola collaborates with the Future Africa Leaders Foundation to

create platforms and initiatives that promote education, leadership development, and social impact.

Inspiration Strikes: It was during her time at the University of Botswana that Serumola witnessed the struggles students face when it comes to understanding and engaging with science concepts. Determined to make a difference, she drew inspiration from her

own experiences as a student, vowing to create a learning tool that would not only captivate young minds but also foster a deep appreciation for the wonders of science.

The Birth of “I AM SMART”: With a clear vision in mind, Serumola channeled her knowledge, passion and creativity into developing the “I AM SMART” board game. Her game combines interactive gameplay with scientific

knowledge, offering a fun and immersive learning experience for players of all ages. By blending entertainment and education, Serumola aims to dissolve the barriers that often hinder students' understanding and enjoyment of science.

Empowering the Future: Serumola's primary goal with “I AM SMART” is to inspire a generation of science enthusiasts. By making science accessible, engaging and enjoyable, she aims to empower young minds to explore the wonders of the natural world and develop a lifelong love for scientific inquiry. Her game encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork, nurturing the skills essential for success in both scientific and everyday endeavours.

Target Market: “I AM SMART” caters for a diverse audience, encompassing students, families, educators, and science enthusiasts alike. Its adaptability and interactive nature make it suitable for both classroom settings and home environments, fostering a collaborative and engaging learning experience for everyone involved.

Future Aspirations: Serumola's vision extends far beyond the initial release of “I AM SMART.” She envisions her board game as a catalyst for change in education worldwide. With the game's success, she aims to expand her reach, collaborating with educational institutions, organisations, and policymakers to integrate innovative approaches to science learning. Serumola aspires to create a positive impact on science education, unlocking the potential of countless young minds and shaping a future generation of scientists and innovators.

Market Response: Since its introduction, “I AM SMART” has garnered widespread acclaim and enthusiastic response from the market. Teachers praise its ability to engage students and make complex scientific concepts accessible. Parents appreciate its educational value and its ability to promote family bonding. The game has garnered positive reviews from both students and science enthusiasts, with many expressing their excitement and eagerness to continue exploring the wonders of science through “I AM SMART.”

GameAs Serumola prepares to unleash her transformative board game upon the world, she stands as a testament to the power

Botswana students, would be enrolled in upskilling internship programmes.

Ms Sanooj said the sole purpose of the initiative was to transform youth from academic standards to industry standards, technically and digitally.

“What is lacking in the current world is that everyone has academic standards but have difficulty transforming to industrial standards, thus we will upskill Batswana youth by creating a startup culture,” added Ms Sanooj. TechIn response, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire, reiterated that the UB strategy was aimed at producing quality graduates that were relevant and industry ready. Therefore, the MOU with TechnoValley Africa would enable the University to achieve its mandate. Courses and programmes offered by TechnoValley Africa will be BQA accredited.



Mrs Vidya Sanooj with Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire after signing the documents.

Sweet Victory as UB Hawks Gain Promotion to Debswana First Division League

University of Botswana (UB) Hawks' short journey to Jwaneng for the Southern Block Promotional Games on the 30th of June 2023 was a sweet one after they secured promotion to Debswana First Division League. Hawks finished the promotional games at the top with eight points after a series of four gruelling games played from the 30th of June to the 2nd of July 2023 to pave their way to first division. Last season, Hawks came close to gaining promotion but faltered at the last hurdle, losing 1-2 to VTM. However, this time around they went all out to make sure they did not come back home empty handed. Kick starting their campaign in this year's promotional games, Hawks faced off with Jwaneng Fighters in a game that ended one all at the Jwaneng Town Council Stadium. The next day, Hawks secured a goalless draw against Taung Young strikers. Hawks would later find their rhythm,



shattering Walker XI's dreams of a first division berth with a 2-1 victory at the Jwaneng Galaxy Stadium. Kago Sesinyi opened Hawks' account 15 minutes into the game and completed his brace just a few minutes into the second half. Walker XI pulled one back but it was too little too late.

Come final game and Hawks were in no mood to concede, taking the battle to the doorstep of Pula Roofing FC for the entire 90 minutes of regulation time. Unobatsha Mbaiwa broke the ice in added time to seal Hawks' victory with a solitary goal that paved their way to Debswana First Division League. ■



2nd ANNUAL

SPORTS AND WELLNESS DAY



UB Stadium

Friday 10th November, 2023

5.00am

REGISTER NOW: <https://forms.office.com/r/1Qobiqzsw83>

Liberian Assistant Minister for Education Visits UB on Fact Finding Mission

A delegation from Liberia's Ministry of Education and University of Liberia recently visited the University of Botswana (UB) to assess progress made by Liberian students.

The delegation which was led by the Assistant Minister for Teacher Education, Mr Gayflor Washington, was also on a mission to explore other collaborative avenues through which UB could assist with further development of the education system in Liberia.

Speaking during a meeting with UB Management and faculty heads, Mr Washington expressed satisfaction with the hospitality accorded their students. He assured the UB Management of continued relationship following a meeting with nine (9) final year Liberian Master's students in the Faculty of Education.

"I would like to affirm that the relationship with UB will be strengthened as completing students continue to make a difference in Liberia. Therefore, we will bring more students," emphasised Mr Washington.

He added that given the foundation UB laid, the education system in Liberia was set to improve, noting that civil war was no longer an excuse for not developing the country.

One of the members of the delegation was a UB alumna, Dean of the Williams V.S. Tubman College of Education, Dr Cecelia Cassell, who has launched an early childhood programme that she learnt about while at UB. She said early childhood learning was a challenge that had a bearing on the outcome of secondary education examinations, especially for the girl child.

Dr Cassell observed that staff exchanges from the University of Botswana Early childhood Lab would help improve their early education programme.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, invited officials from the Ministry of Education in Liberia to return and explore other avenues especially at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology as well as the recently launched UB Innovation Centre. Professor Norris reiterated that Africa's problems could only be solved through research and African university collaborations.

Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Professor Georges Ekosse, said UB would work on improving the learning environment for international students at the University of Botswana.

Professor Ekosse added that collaboration with Liberia should also expand to areas of research and innovation, student and staff exchanges to further enhance interaction. In addition, he said as African institutions of higher learning

they should deliver beneficial solutions to mutual challenges.

The visit by the Liberian delegation followed a long-standing agreement between the Governments of Botswana and Liberia through which the University of Botswana continues to offer expertise to the Liberian Government on transforming its education system. Relations with Liberia were further enhanced through a working visit by a delegation led by Professor Norris last year.

The nine Liberian students are set to return home by end June 2023. The group enrolled for Masters degree programmes as part of an initiative to capacitate Liberia's human capital besides transforming the country's education system. ■



Members of the Liberian delegation with the UB Management Team.



Water heating solar system

SOLTRAIN+ TRAINS...

◀ from page 7

to the course. More than 40 experts and engineers took part in the workshops. A highlight of the workshop included a visit to the solar water heating systems installed at SOS Village, Tlokeng, co-funded by SOLTRAIN. ■



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE SPORTS AND RECREATION

Learn To Swim

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
LTS For Kids 15:00 - 16:30	LTS For UB Students 15:00 - 16:30	LTS For Kids 15:00 - 16:30	LTS For UB Students 15:00 - 16:30	LTS For Kids 15:00 - 16:30
	LTS For Adults 17:00 - 18:00		LTS For Adults 17:00 - 18:00	Aqua-Aerobics LTS For Staff 17:00 - 18:00

FEES: Adults BWP 500.00 | Children (4-12yrs) BWP 400.00 | External Students BWP 250.00 | UB Staff & Students FREE
Aqua Aerobics @ BWP 200.00 (only for Aqua Aerobics)

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 (Standard Chartered, Mall Branch, ACC No: 01001 101096 00)

FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT: +267 72166908/72373255/3555209/5213/4492 | ubgym@ub.ac.bw

Eight Tourism and Hospitality Management Students Eye Walt Disney Experience

Students studying Tourism and Hospitality Management recently underwent interviews for an opportunity to work in United States of America (USA) at the Walt Disney Company's Orlando Florida themed park - The Animal Kingdom.

The prospective candidates are eight (8) final year students, two UB alumni and 17 other Batswana in the tourism and hospitality industry.

Briefing the aspirants on the prospects of the 12-month excellence service delivery programme, Disney Programmes Senior Recruiter, Mr Javier Reyes, said other than just general entertainment, it was initiated solely for Walt Disney World guests to experience cultural diversity from across the globe.

Mr Reyes added that while at Disney, candidates would be afforded the opportunity to further enhance their careers through professional courses offered by Walt Disney University as well as receiving mentorship from Disney's senior executives.

The recruitment drive dates back to 2018 and was spearheaded by then Head of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality, Mrs Montle Siya, who is an alumna of the Walt Disney Company. However, in 2019, after successfully recruiting another group, the trip was halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic until its commencement this year.

Mrs Siya said to develop the programme further, UB was currently in discussion with the Walt Disney Company on plans to formalise collaboration by way of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). ■



Fancing their chances at the Walt Disney Company's Orlando Florida themed park.



Mr Javier Reyes with Mrs Montle Siya after briefing the aspirants.

University of Botswana Marathon Organisers Target Over 3000 Runners

Organisers of the second edition of the University of Botswana (UB) Marathon slated for UB Stadium on the 24th September 2023, say they are targeting over 3000 runners. The first edition of the marathon which was held last year, registered over 1000 local and international athletes out of which 800 turned up for the event.

The UB Marathon was introduced by the University as way of contributing to sport development and health and wellness in the country. It was introduced with a view to fighting Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) as well as to encourage healthy lifestyles. Consequently, as a premier institution of higher learning with expertise across disciplines, the university will during the build-up to the main event impart knowledge to members of society on issues of sport, health, and wellness. In addition, the marathon presents the university with an opportunity to showcase the beauty of Gaborone by taking runners through routes with iconic landmarks and historical sites.

As one of the key events for UB and the local sporting fraternity, the marathon is organised by the UB Foundation with proceeds going into the institution's scholarship endowment fund to sponsor graduate students at UB besides covering other institutional expenses. Sponsorship categories open to companies wishing to sponsor the marathon are Dia-

mond, Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Partner. In addition, stalls and water points are available for purchase with prices ranging from P1500 to P15 000. Runners can register across different categories (42km, 21km, 10km & 5km fun run). Meanwhile, the marathon will further afford the more than 80 000 UB alumni a great opportunity to reconnect with their alma mater. ■



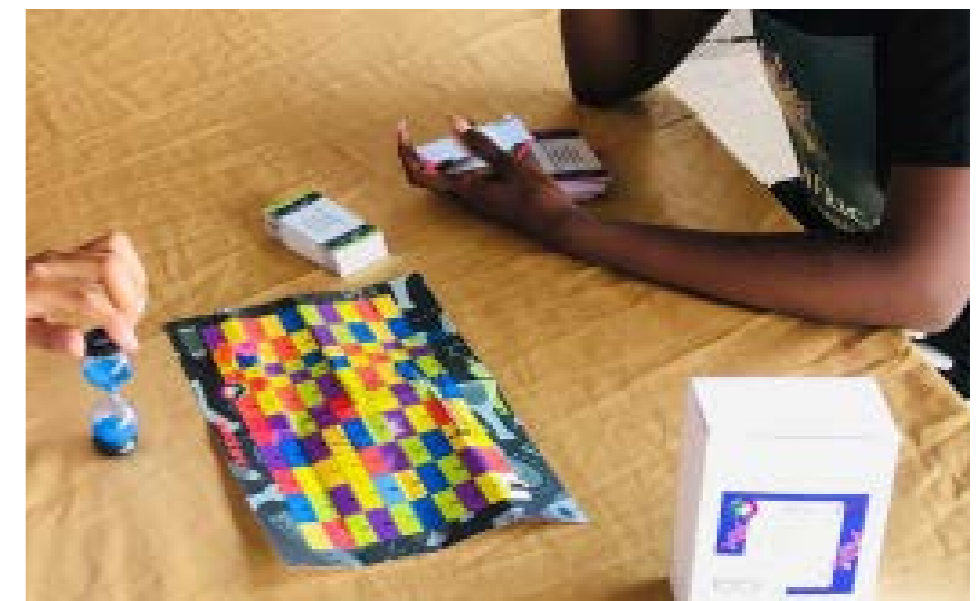
The second edition of the UB Marathon is expected to attract more than 3000 runners.

"I am Smart" ◀ from page 10

of innovation and dedication in reshaping education. With "I AM SMART," she is on a mission to ignite a spark of curiosity, inspire young minds, and nurture a deep appreciation for the wonders of science in generations to come.

The "I AM SMART" board game is designed to be easily accessible to individuals who are eager to embark on a scientific adventure. To ensure widespread availability, the game can be accessed through various platforms and contact points.

With multiple avenues for engagement and contact, the "I AM SMART" board game strives to ensure accessibility and convenience for all individuals interested in exploring the wonders of science through an interactive and engaging experience. ■



I Am Smart Game demonstration.

School of Graduate Studies

call for January 2024 MMed applications

OUR HISTORY
The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Botswana (UB) offers both undergraduate (MBBS) and post-graduate (MMed) degrees. This announcement invites applications for the following post-graduate training programmes in the faculty that will begin in January 2024. For more information about UB and its post-graduate programmes please visit the following UB websites: www.ub.bw and www.ubotho.net.

POST-GRADUATE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES (4-YEAR MMed)

- Internal Medicine** (Princess Marina Hospital, Stellenbosch University and University of Cape Town affiliated academic hospitals)
- Paediatrics and Adolescent Health** (Princess Marina Hospital, University of Witwatersrand affiliated academic hospitals)

MMed PROGRAMME CONTENT

- Each programme has three components: clinical work, examinations and a research based dissertation.
- Trainees must successfully complete all three in order to qualify for an award of an MMed degree from University of Botswana and for specialist registration with the Botswana Health Professions Council (BHPC).

REQUIREMENTS

- Botswana citizens and non-citizens.
- Completed medical training at BHPC recognised institute.
- Active clinical practice for at least 2 years by 31st October 2023 at least one of which must have been in an approved internship programme.
- Evidence of successful completion of Part 1 (primary) examinations of the College of Medicine of South Africa (CMEA) prior to studies beginning in preference.

TRANSFER
Any Botswana citizen who started postgraduate training elsewhere and for whatever reason has not been able to complete, and still wants to pursue their studies may be eligible to transfer into these UB programmes on a case by case basis.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE
Applications are only done through UB website: www.ub.bw Steps to follow: Admissions>Postgraduate Applications

FINANCIAL SPONSORSHIP

- All MMed programmes are offered on a full time basis.
- Prospective students should arrange sponsorship before enrolment.
- Sponsorship should cover training and welfare costs.
- Proof of financial support will be a pre-requisite for confirmation of selection for those successful at interview.

POSITIONS
MMed training for these programmes will occur full time at MCH facilities, some programs may also train at private clinical sites. Applicants should anticipate training rotations in South Africa, for at least 12 months (Paediatrics) or at least 24 months (Internal Medicine).

Before applying

- Application fee receipt copy (payment can be made through UB website *181 payment, top right corner)
- Certified copy of degree certificate(s) and official transcripts
- Three recent signed letter of references.
- Certified copy of ID-Omang (citizens) and passport (non-citizens).
- Statement of Intent (approximately 500 words).
- Up to date Curriculum Vitae (CV).
- Copy of proof of change of surname (where applicable)

Former University of Botswana (UB) students who have changed their surnames should use the previous ones they used while at UB so that the system can map their student ID to their surname and previous records. The new surname could be captured through the School of Graduate studies offices once admitted.

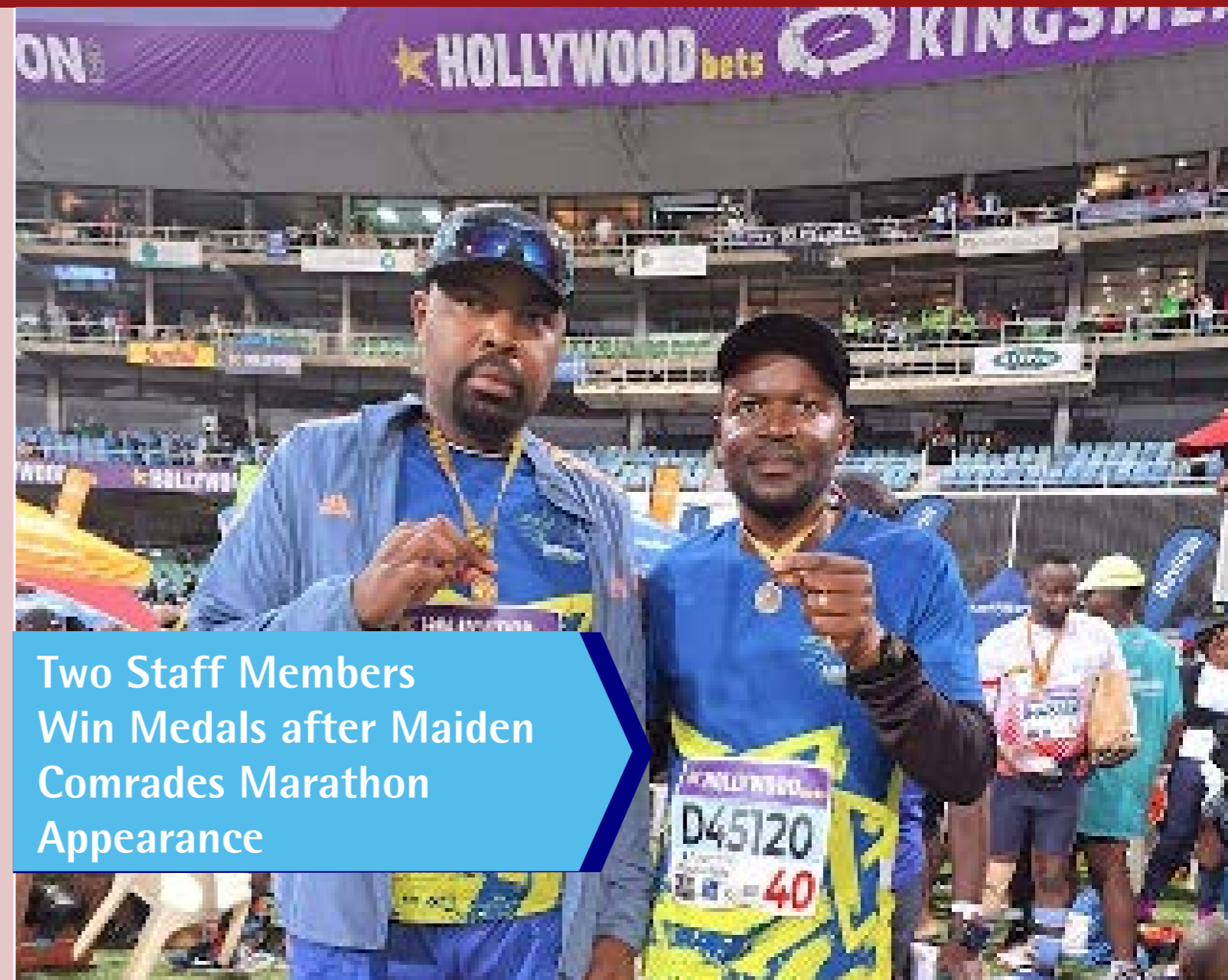
Selection

- Successful applicants will be invited for oral interview, may involve written/practical component in some programmes.
- Final assessment: 30% experience, 30% academic qualification and 40% interview.
- Successful candidates will be notified by 30th November 2023 and should be available to start training on Monday 15th January 2024.

Closing Date: Monday 20th November 2023

Ms Masa Mojedife: mojedife@ub.ac.bw +267 355 2960
 Ms Tshwaragano Otukile: otukile@ub.ac.bw +267 355 2861
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www.ub.bw School of Graduate Studies Block 247, First floor



Two Staff Members Win Medals after Maiden Comrades Marathon Appearance

Dr Makamu Sebakeng and Kgosietsile Bopadile showing off the medals they won after their Comrades Marathon maiden appearance.

University of Botswana (UB) is proud of Dr Makamu Sebakeng from the Department of Emergency Medicine and Mr Kgosietsile Bopadile from Campus Services for successfully completing their maiden Comrades Marathon held in South Africa in June. Mr Bopadile completed the race in 9hrs 13min 26sec securing the Robert Mtshali Medal (aka the Sub 10 Hour medal) while Dr Sebakeng completed in 10hrs 55min 44sec, obtaining the Comrades Bronze Medal (aka

the Sub 11 Hour Medal). The 90km race was to be completed in less than 12 hours for one to be considered a finisher. The race which took the athletes from Pietermaritzburg to Durban (down-run) was the 96th edition of the ultra-marathon. During the build-up to the race, both runners had to have completed a full marathon (42.2 km) in at least 4hrs 49min 59sec to qualify for the Comrades Marathon and undergo intensive training in the build-up to race day.

Both Mr Bopadile and Dr Sebakeng will be returning next year for the 97th edition which is scheduled to be an up run (Durban to Pietermaritzburg) in their pursuit for the Comrades Back-to-Back medal. The Back-to-Back medal is awarded to any novice that completes two Comrades Marathons in succession. The duo is looking forward to the UB community's support. ■



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To be a leading centre of academic excellence in Africa and the world

MISSION

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