

JUNE 2024

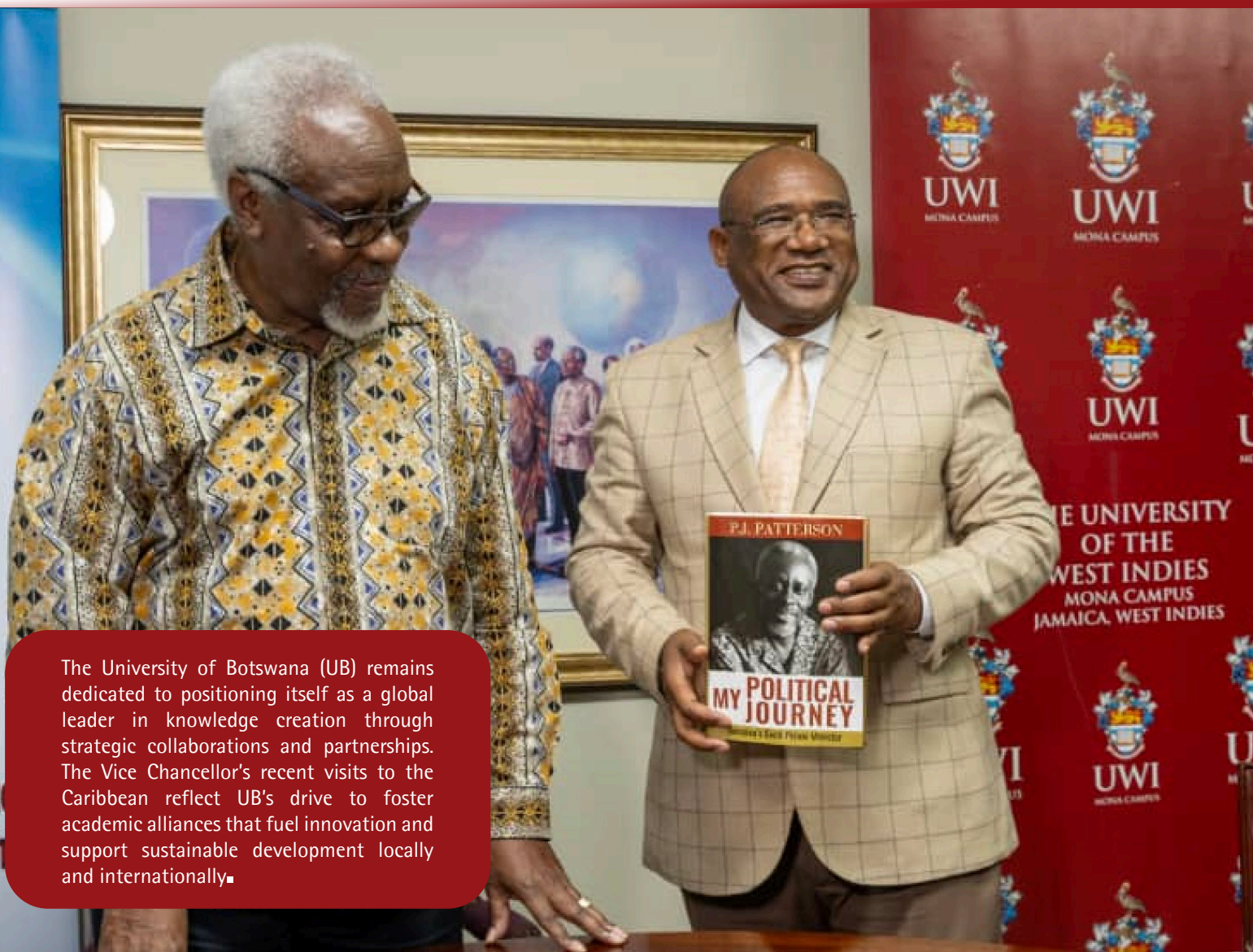


# UBNEWS

In Pursuit of Academic Excellence

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## Strengthening Ties Across Africa & the Atlantic

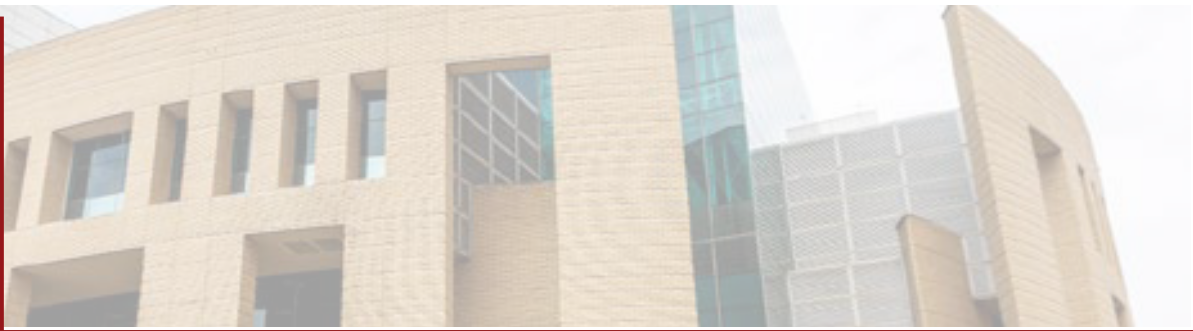


The University of Botswana (UB) remains dedicated to positioning itself as a global leader in knowledge creation through strategic collaborations and partnerships. The Vice Chancellor's recent visits to the Caribbean reflect UB's drive to foster academic alliances that fuel innovation and support sustainable development locally and internationally.

6 Professor Mbongwe Gets Nelson Mandela Award

8 Strengthening Ties across Africa and the Atlantic

16 Gambling Authority to Sponsor Ten Students



## EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the June edition of the UB Newsletter! This month, we are excited to present a rich selection of stories that showcase the University of Botswana's (UB) continued commitment to excellence, innovation and global engagement.

Leading this edition is an inspiring feature on the Vice Chancellor's recent trip to the Caribbean. This visit marked a significant milestone in UB's efforts to strengthen ties across Africa and the Atlantic, paving the way for new academic and research collaborations that will benefit our students and academic staff alike.

We also shine the spotlight on two of our distinguished women Professors who have been honoured by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for their outstanding contributions to global health. Their achievements underscore UB's role as a hub for impactful research and thought leadership.

Our coverage of the Maranyane STEM Festival is a must-read, particularly for those passionate about education and youth empowerment. The festival, dedicated to inspiring young girls to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering the next generation of innovators and leaders.

Finally, we delve into the critical role that Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) plays in Botswana's transition from a resource-based to a knowledge-based economy. As we continue to align our educational offerings with the needs of a rapidly evolving job market, TVET stands out as a key driver for sustainable development.

There is much to explore in this issue and we hope these stories will not only inform but also inspire you.

**Thomas Nkhoma**

## Highlights...



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# CONTENTS

4

Internationalisation of Education  
Plays Critical Role in Stimulating  
Academic Quality

5

Professor Ramogola-Masire 2024  
Sasakawa Health Prize Receptient

6

Professor Mbongwe Gets Nelson  
Mandela Award

7

First Youth Mobility Cluster Meeting  
Introduces Diverse EU High Education  
Programmes

8

Strengthening Ties across Africa and  
the Atlantic

10

University of Cincinnati Delegation  
Explores UB Teacher Education Models

11

UB and FERDI Collaborate to Enhance  
Healthcare

12

UB and FNBB Forge Partnership

13

Baylor College of Medicine Visits  
University of Botswana to  
Strengthen Collaborative Ties

14

TVET Plays Important Role in Driving  
Knowledge-Based Economy–Prof  
Ketlogetswe

15

UB Participates at Maranyane  
Bokamoso Programme Festival  
to Empower Future STEM Leaders

16

Gambling Authority to Sponsor Ten  
Students



The University of Botswana (UB) Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, says the internationalisation of education plays a pivotal role in enhancing academic quality and increasing employability in the global markets. Professor Norris points to a global mindset, an international outlook and language proficiency as key factors contributing to such benefits.

He was speaking during a public lecture under the theme, *"The Power of International Education, Transforming Lives and Shaping the Future"* taking place at Harry C. Moore Library and Information Centre in Bahamas on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2024. Professor Norris said internationalisation of education also enriched and broadened cultural experiences and perspectives. He added that other benefits of international education included building soft skills such as communication, adaptability and empathy. He noted that it also developed a global mindset as well as improving financial gains and developing global citizens.

The Vice Chancellor described internationalisations as the social responsibility of higher education beneficial for the wider community at home, abroad, through education, research, service and international cultural engagement. Highlighting the pillars of Global Citizenship Education, Professor Norris underscored the importance of cultural awareness and respect besides social responsibility, ethical decision-making, effective communication and collaboration as well as critical thinking and problem-solving. Furthermore, he said the benefit of global citizenship education included, global competence, informed global decision making and effective participation in global issues. He also pointed out that the United Kingdom was one of the countries that were doing exceptionally well on reaping economic benefits of international students. He emphasised that key steps to effective internationalisation included development of sub-level internationalisation strategies reflecting institutional connectedness by faculties and strategic entities. Professor Norris indicated that Internationalised

# Internationalisation of Education Plays Critical Role in Stimulating Academic Quality

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*By fostering global collaboration, universities can access diverse perspectives, resources and expertise, enriching the educational experience, argues Professor David Norris*

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mindset was also important for the professional development of the University. Universities' financial model, he noted, should budget for internationalisation as well as development and access to curriculum from an internationalisation perspective in terms of structure, content and recirculate where necessary to accommodate students from different systems.

The Vice Chancellor advised Universities to assess whether the curriculum produced globally competitive graduates, well-rounded critical thinkers, lifelong learners, employable, innovative and entrepreneurial graduates. He further reckoned that Universities should assess existing teaching and learning philosophies to ascertain if they were responsive to the requirements of international education. He said university

infrastructure and facilities should be of modern standards for provision of a global learning environment. Universities should take internationalisation benefits such as research collaboration to impact communities. Reflecting on current challenges faced by Universities on internationalisation, Professor Norris highlighted lack of policy and structure on internationalisation and academic competency challenges such as language complexities, scientific incompetencies and low skills in using technology tools. He also viewed financial, physical resources as well as social and cultural differences as some of the challenges faced by Universities in internationalisation.

The public lecture was attended both virtually and physically by a class of students, scholars as well as the media globally.



# Professor Ramogola-Masire 2024 Sasakawa Health Prize Receptient



*Professor Ramogola-Masire delivering her acceptance speech.*

The Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire, has been awarded the 2024 World Health Organisation (WHO) Sasakawa Health Prize. Professor Ramogola-Masire received the award in Geneva, Switzerland on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024. The Sasakawa Health Prize is awarded for outstanding innovative work in health development to a person/s, an institution/s, or a non-governmental or organisation/s. Such work includes the promotion of given health programmes or commendable advances in primary health care.

This comes following confirmation by the Executive Board, after unanimous decision by the Sasakawa Health Prize Selection Panel to award her the prize. Consequently, she received a statuette and US\$30 000. Professor Ramogola-Masire is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Since 2002, she has played an important role in both the development and implementation of Botswana's first National Cervical Cancer Prevention Strategy, which was later launched in 2012. Through her role as a member of the National HIV Technical Working Group for the past two decades,

she took an active part in developing and updating the National Strategic Framework for HIV. Professor Ramogola-Masire worked to expand the partnerships that had been developed to support the country's HIV/AIDS programme to also support cervical cancer prevention.

Her work initially focused on screening and early treatment of pre-cancerous lesions caused by Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infections which was expanded with HPV vaccination starting in 2015. Thanks to the use of self-collected samples for HPV testing, the cervical cancer screening programme will be accessible to more women in Botswana, including socially and geographically disadvantaged women.

In addition, Professor Ramogola-Masire's dexterous work in training nurses and medical officers to carry out cervical cancer screening and treatment procedures using telemedicine as a quality assurance tool, helped Botswana to implement its cervical cancer prevention programme notwithstanding an insufficient number of

trained gynaecologists.

Moreover, she facilitated the development of an obstetrics and gynaecology specialisation programme at national level, which will ensure a supply of well-trained specialists able to lead this work in the future. Her involvement of community and traditional leaders at key stages of the preparation for the programme's launch is expected to be an important factor in ensuring the programme's success.

In her new role as leader of the Strategic Office for Research at the University of Botswana, Professor Ramogola-Masire continues to facilitate and build capacity for collaborative and impactful multidisciplinary health research studies that will speak to the subject of climate change. Following the award, Professor Ramogola-Masire expressed her desire to invest in supporting the qualitative aspect of the development of biomarker triage strategies for women who screen positive for any high-risk HPV.



*Professor Ramogola-Masire receiving the award from Minister of Health, Dr Edwin Dikoloti while WHO Director General, Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus and another WHO official congratulate her.*

# Professor Mbongwe Gets Nelson Mandela Award



*She spearheaded consultations for the WHO Tobacco Control Framework*

Associate Professor of Environmental Health at the University of Botswana (UB), Professor Bontle Mbongwe, has been awarded the World Health Organisation (WHO) Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion. Professor Mbongwe who is Head of the School of Public Health, received the prestigious award in Geneva, Switzerland on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024.

The award is given to individuals, institutions or organisations that have made indispensable contributions in the

health promotion field. Consequently, Professor Mbongwe has been recognised for her exemplary work as a public health advocate and a passionate tobacco control activist. She played a pivotal role in initiating national consultations during the negotiation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. This led to the amendment of Botswana's Control of Smoking Act in 2004, which restricted smoking in public places, protected children, pregnant women and workers

as well as raising the minimum age for purchasing tobacco products from 16 to 18 besides banning tobacco advertising and promotion. In 2008, Professor Mbongwe's research influenced Governmental policies to shift from mercury-containing devices to mercury-free alternatives in healthcare facilities. In 2014, she challenged the tobacco industry by successfully advocating for a 30 percent tobacco levy in Botswana. The award recipient also contributed to the creation of the Tobacco Control Act of 2021, aligning with WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The Act further raised the minimum age for purchasing tobacco products to 21, banned the sale of single cigarettes and required tobacco products to be sold by licensed individuals only.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Mbongwe successfully advocated for a ban on the sale of tobacco products. As the founder of the first civil society Anti-Tobacco Network in Botswana, Professor Mbongwe has been instrumental in creating a coalition of media and non-governmental organisations dedicated to tobacco control in Botswana, Africa and beyond. Her research on youth smoking has led to initiatives such as "SKY Girls BW" and the "Most Teens Don't Smoke" campaigns. For her outstanding leadership in anti-smoking efforts, Professor Mbongwe received the World No Tobacco Day Award and the WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award in 2021.



*Professor Bontle Mbongwe receiving the award from Minister of Health, Dr Edwin Dikoloti while WHO Director General, Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus applauds her.*



The University of Botswana (UB) in collaboration with European Union (EU) recently hosted the first Youth Mobility Cluster Meeting at the UB Conference Centre to introduce African Scholars to diverse EU high education programmes in Africa and facilitate dialogue with the programme managers.

The initiative encourages cooperation in higher education and skills development while bolstering regional and continental harmonisation mechanisms. It also aims to position Africa as a desirable study destination. Members of the diplomatic community who graced the event included United State of America (USA) Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Oliver Lin Justiniano, French Ambassador, His Excellency Oliver Brochenin and African Union Commission representative, Ms Sophia Ashipala.

In his welcome remarks, UB Chief Operations Officer (COO), Mr Dawid Katzke, highlighted the University's active participation in various EU-Funded programmes aimed at enhancing its academic, research, and networking capabilities. He noted that these programmes had facilitated collaboration with European partner universities, enabling the exchange of knowledge, expertise and resources.

Mr Katzke said the University was involved in the Erasmus+ programme, which supported international cooperation in higher education, fostering mobility and partnerships as well as promoting skills development among students and staff. Mr Katzke stated that UB recently joined the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme as a partner in the project; "Towards Enhancing Sustainable and Innovative Environmental Change Solutions" (TESIECS). The initiative aims at improving the capacities of staff in teaching, training and developing new cohorts of postgraduates in climate change, social and environmental justice.

Mr Katzke revealed that UB had also been engaged in projects under the European Union's Horizon 2020, a research and innovation funding initiative focusing on issues such as climate change, renewable energy and sustainable development. He said through such collaborations, the UB continued to enhance its global standing

# First Youth Mobility Cluster Meeting Introduces Diverse EU High Education Programmes



*Some participants of the Youth Mobility Cluster Meeting following the proceedings.*

and impact, contributing to the AU-EU agenda for research and education excellence. EU Ambassador to Botswana, Her Excellency Petra Pereyra, said European Union gave EU/ African Union Summit investment package for connecting the world with investors and partnerships to tackle global challenges together. She also said by 2027, EU aimed to mobilise EUR150 billion for investment in Africa's digital, energy and transport, infrastructure, human capital development and on youth. Ms Pereyra further noted that in 2022, EU launched Youth Mobility for Africa Flagship

initiative worth EUR970 million. She said the Youth Mobility for Africa Flagship unified existing and new EU-funded programmes and promoted corporation between the EU and African Union member states and stakeholders.

Ms Pereyra indicated that the initiative aimed at harmonising efforts, enhancing collaboration and providing a common platform for policy discussions as well as fostering mutual understanding and cooperation.



*The Erasmus+ programme supports international cooperation in higher education to and partnership.*

# Strengthening Ties across Africa and the Atlantic

## University of Botswana Vice Chancellor's Transformative Caribbean Mission

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2024, University of Botswana (UB) Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, embarked on a week-long transformative journey across the Caribbean, visiting the University of The Bahamas and University of the West Indies. The purpose of the visit was more than just renewing long-standing partnerships but designed to explore new opportunities for research and scholarly cooperation as well.

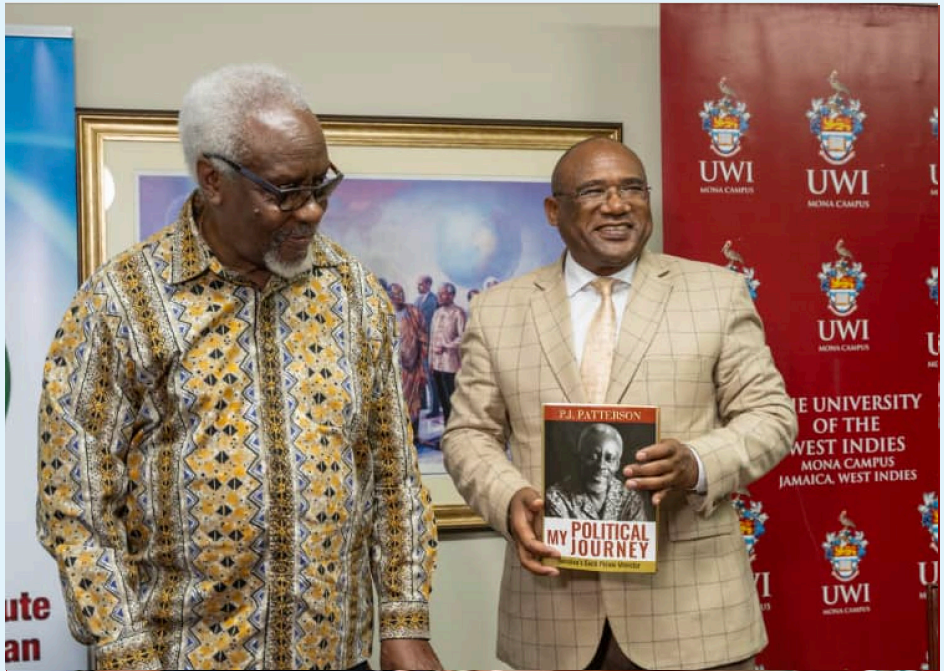
During this marathon tour, Professor Norris led a high-powered delegation during which they had the opportunity to sign Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the host institutions. The agreements encapsulated a range of collaborative endeavours, including joint research projects and publications, educational training programmes and

dual degree initiatives. The MoUs are more than just pieces of paper but signify a shared commitment to academic excellence and mutual growth between UB and the Caribbean region.

A highlight of the trip was Professor Norris' meeting with His Excellency and Former Prime Minister of Jamaica, Percival Noel James Patterson. Not only was their conversation a profound reconnection but it further highlighted the importance of re-establishing collaborations between

Africa and the African Diaspora. Professor Norris eloquently articulated his vision, underlining the pivotal role of empowering the people and enhancing economies of the two regions through collective efforts in knowledge creation and generation.

"Our destinies are intertwined," Norris remarked, "and through unity in purpose, we can achieve remarkable progress." Not only was the Caribbean odyssey just about signing documents but also about rekindling relationships and setting a bold



A highlight of Professor Norris' visit to the Caribbean was meeting Former Prime Minister of Jamaica, Percival Noel James Patterson.



Professor David Norris and Professor Hopeton Dunn sharing a light-hearted moment with University of the West Indies management.



agenda for future cooperation. Professor Norris noted that the UB's commitment to regional development was evident through its collaborations with countries such as Guyana, Nigeria and Liberia. He passionately declared, "The time is now to believe in our competencies and intellectuality." Expressing gratitude for the audience with

His Excellency P. J. Patterson, Professor Norris discussed potential joint efforts to tackle environmental and cultural issues while strengthening economic ties. Both leaders acknowledged the shared challenges faced by their regions and the common goals they strove to achieve. Their discussions also ventured into the realms of media and cultural studies, tourism and hospitality management and sports development. They identified additional opportunities in creative arts, trade and economic relations, climate change, food security, technology and sports medicine. The diverse areas of potential collaboration reflect a holistic approach to regional development and prosperity.

His Excellency P. J. Patterson reminisced about the historical partnership between Botswana and Jamaica. He observed that the two (2) nations faced similar challenges, making them practical companions and partners. "Our shared history and challenges bind us together," Patterson remarked, underscoring the deep connection between the two (2) regions.

Meanwhile, Professor Norris' visit to the Caribbean provides hope besides being a catalyst for a new era of collaboration. It signifies a bold step towards a future where academic institutions across the Atlantic work hand in hand to create a better world.

As these MoUs turn into tangible projects and initiatives, the vision of a united, empowered and prosperous African Diaspora and African continent edges closer to reality.

The journey was not just about renewing old ties but weaving a vibrant tapestry of shared dreams and aspirations. Consequently, under the visionary leadership of Professor Norris, UB is poised to make significant strides in the global academic arena in addition to fostering a legacy of excellence, innovation and mutual benefit.



*UB visiting team embarked on various activities with representatives of the University of the West Indies including visiting the Usain Bolt Tracks and Records facility.*



# University of Cincinnati Delegation Explores UB Teacher Education Models



*University of Cincinnati delegation posing for a group photo with their hosts after a tour of the University of Botswana campus.*

The University of Cincinnati (UC) in the United States of America (USA) delegation recently visited University of Botswana (UB) Faculty of Education to explore Teacher Education Models with the aim of enhancing learning and making improvements to existing practices.

The delegation toured UB campus and Government secondary and primary schools. The delegation comprised three (3) lecturers and 17 students. During a presentation on Teaching Practice in Botswana, Dr Sinvula Robert Masene, Acting Teaching Practice Coordinator at the Faculty of Education, underlined the international standard of the UB's teaching programme. He noted that the

Faculty of Education comprised eight (8) departments dedicated to teacher training. In addition, he mentioned that the departments also offered programmes focused on internships.

Dr Masene also described teaching practice as an experience provided for teaching practice students. He said the aim was for students to practise skills they learnt from the methodology courses. He further noted that the objective was for students to demonstrate the skills they had acquired to effectively deliver content. He added that UB's goals included developing teachers with attributes and qualities that promoted creativity and innovation in learners. Dr Masene also highlighted that UB's teacher

education programmes offered two (2) pathways: the Bachelor of Education and the Post Graduate Diploma in Education. He added that the current teaching practice exercises had consistently been effective, producing quality graduates who competed successfully in the global market.

He said the main objective of the UB Teacher Education Programme was to introduce student teacher to their profession through practice and exposure to associated routines by assisting students to foster links between theory and practice, experience new ideas in a real-life situation as well as to get exposure to the complex nature of their field.

Highlighting on the challenges of the current teacher practice model, Dr Masene said it included little support for pre-service teacher experience, heavy reliance on schools for supervision with little support from UB as well as poor pre-service teacher reflective processes and opportunities. Associate Professor of Education at the University of Cincinnati, Dianna Greivenkamp, said the University was located in the heart of Cincinnati city. She observed that the institution's mission revolved around urban education, aiming to promote equity through education for students within the city.

Professor Greivenkamp also said the purpose for the visit to Africa was to learn and improve teacher practice and take lessons back home and use them to improve outcomes for marginalised students in the United States of America.



*The University of Cincinnati delegation attending a briefing on teaching practice in Botswana.*



# UB and FERDI Collaborate to Enhance Healthcare



*Professor Ishmael Kasvosve addressing participants of the workshop.*

The University of Botswana (UB) in collaboration with the Foundation for Studies and Research on International Development (FERDI) based in France, is proud to contribute to a well-functioning health system that works in harmony.

This was said by the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Ishmael Kasvosve during a three-day Workshop on Health Economics Training held at the University of Botswana on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2024.

"We take pride as an institution of higher learning to actively take part in developing a trained and motivated health workforce towards an efficient health sector in Botswana," said Professor Kasvosve.

He emphasised that health economics focuses on making healthcare more equitable, accessible, and affordable for everyone, as outlined in the Botswana National Health Policy, "Towards a Healthier

Botswana" approved in 2011. The policy further stipulates six (6) core components of the health system building blocks which include: leadership and governance, service delivery, health system financing, health workforce, medical products, vaccines and technologies and health information systems.

Consequently, Professor Kasvosve expressed excitement that participants of the workshop would learn more about the important role played by economics in shaping healthcare systems and policies.

*"Throughout this training, you will have the opportunity to explore key concepts in health economics, such as cost-effectiveness analysis, health financing, and the impact of healthcare policies on patient outcomes,"* he observed. He indicated that the goal was to provide participants with the knowledge and tools necessary for

them to make informed decisions that would ultimately improve the delivery of healthcare services in Botswana. The workshop is a sequel to Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the UB and FERDI. The objective of the MoU is to organise joint academic and scientific activities, such as short and long courses, conferences, seminars, workshops, symposia and/or lectures.

Professor Kasvosve pointed out that the School of Public Health, which is the focal point for this collaboration, organised the first training in 2022, where 20 participants from the Ministry of Health (MoH) attended a threeweek module on Health Economics. He said the programme covered methods for evaluation, innovations, cost-effectiveness assessment for medical decisions, and strategic management and economics for better healthcare.■



*Participants posing for a group photo after the workshop.*

# UB and FNBB Forge Partnership

...as they Commit to Enhance Student Employability and Staff Development

The University of Botswana (UB) has entered into a strategic partnership with First National Bank of Botswana (FNBB) through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2024. Vice Chancellor Professor David Norris signed the MoU on behalf of UB while FNBB Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr Steven Bogatsu represented the bank during a signing ceremony held at the FNBB Head Office in Gaborone. The main objective of the collaboration is to provide deserving UB students and graduates with valuable exposure to the professional world. In addition, the MoU outlines a framework through which the two (2) institutions exchange best practices in areas of mutual interest.

Notably, it allows FNBB staff members with specialised skills to impart knowledge and expertise to UB students to create a dynamic learning environment that bridges the gap between academic theory and practical application. Furthermore, the MoU paves way for various collaborative initiatives, including internships, workshops and mentorship programmes designed to prepare UB students for successful careers in their respective fields.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Professor Norris expressed his optimism about the collaboration, highlighting its potential to create a nurturing environment for UB students and graduates. He noted that, despite possessing immense talent and innovation, young people in Botswana often lacked opportunities to thrive in such environments. *"This partnership signifies our commitment to equipping our young people with the necessary skills*



Professor David Norris and FNBB CEO, Mr Steven Bogatsu, signing the MoU.

*to propel them to greater heights,"* said Professor Norris. "We want to power their intellectual capacity to excel," he emphasised. Professor Norris also urged FNBB to support UB's research initiatives aimed at addressing societal challenges. He suggested that FNBB should consider naming one of UB's sporting facilities, such as the stadium, after the bank, as a gesture of partnership and commitment to the University's development.

*"In addition to providing our students with invaluable work experience, we hope FNBB will also contribute to our research efforts, which are critical for solving many challenges facing our society,"* observed Professor Norris.

Mr Bogatsu echoed this sentiment, highlighting FNBB's commitment to

fostering talent and contributing to the development of Botswana.

He stated that collaborating with UB would help FNBB to elevate the quality of education and build a robust talent pool for the country. He added that through collaboration with UB aligned perfectly with FNBB's focus on creative industries, mentorship and empowerment and environmental sustainability. "This partnership is a deliberate and meaningful step in creating social and economic value," said Mr Bogatsu. He concluded by highlighting that UB and FNBB must approach their partnership with passion and dedication to achieving excellence, fostering innovation and driving progress.



UB and FNBB Management and staff posing for a group photo after the signing ceremony.



# Baylor College of Medicine Visits University Of Botswana to Strengthen Collaborative Ties



*Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, handing over a token of appreciation to Baylor College CEO, Professor Paul Klotman.*

Professor Paul Klotman, President, Executive Dean and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Baylor College of Medicine recently paid a courtesy visit to Professor David Norris, Vice Chancellor (VC) of the University of Botswana (UB). The visit aimed at strengthening academic and

clinical collaborations as well as expanding the scope of existing collaboration between the two (2) esteemed institutions.

During the visit, discussions focused on enhancing the capacity of lecturers at the Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital (SKMTH). Professor Tsima, the Acting Dean

of the Faculty of Medicine, highlighted that while the hospital has made significant strides since its inception, new challenges continue to emerge. He emphasised that partnerships with Baylor College of Medicine are crucial in addressing these challenges.

"There is a lot of pressure to think creatively about meeting training needs with limited staff," Professor Tsima revealed.

He further mentioned the possibility of bringing in short-term clinicians to teach and provide clinical services, ensuring they align with the hospital's specific needs. Additionally, those clinicians who come for longer terms could be offered adjunct positions at UB.

Professor Klotman echoed the importance of this collaboration, revealing plans to construct a new tech-focused education building at Baylor College of Medicine. He proposed the possibility of collaborative distance learning initiatives with UB, leveraging the new facility.

"We have this longstanding connection with the medical school and are very embedded in its success," emphasised Professor Klotman. Meanwhile Professor Norris expressed concern about the regression in the healthcare system albeit optimistic about its future.

"Collaborating with yourselves will really help us strengthen the research and provide the healthcare that we need," he said, highlighting the potential benefits of the partnership with Baylor College of Medicine. The visit underscored the commitment of both institutions to advance medical education and clinical service, addressing current challenges through innovative and collaborative solutions. Prof Klotman was accompanied by Prof Mary E. Klotman Dean at Duke Medical School, Mr Michael B. Mizwa, and Executive Director Botswana- Baylor Children's Clinical Centre of Excellence, Professor Mogomotsi Matshaba.



*UB Management and Baylor College delegation posing for a group photo.*

## TVET Plays Important Role in Driving Knowledge-Based Economy– Prof Ketlogetswe

**M**echanical Engineering Lecturer in the University of Botswana's (UB) Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Professor Clever Ketlogetswe, has underscored the critical role that Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) plays in transitioning the country from a resource-based to a knowledge-based economy.

Professor Ketlogetswe highlighted that TVET equipped the younger generation with the skills needed to respond effectively to societal and economic transformations, particularly in the context of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Industrial Revolution. He advised that TVET must remain relevant and current in the face of rapid technological and occupational changes. Professor Ketlogetswe explained the importance of designing TVET programmes in enabling continuous adaptation and skills development besides ensuring that the workforce remained equipped to meet the evolving needs of various industries.

He said it was important to support training institutions to successfully teach digital skills and collaborate to bridge the gap between experts, adequate facilities and equipment. He noted that modern economies derived their wealth from knowledge-based economies to promote sustainable economic development.

Professor Ketlogetswe emphasised that vocational training institutions must upskill workers to stay relevant with new technologies while integrating traditional techniques with modern advancements. Despite the positive impact new technologies had on education and training, he observed that they also had challenges such as inappropriate use of digital devices by students. As such, he reckoned that the curriculum needed to be designed such that it would address digital challenges.



*Professor Clever Ketlogetswe explaining the processes for biodiesel production.*



*The Minister of Education and Skills Development, Dr Douglas Letsholathebe, during a visit to the stalls.*



*Some of the panelists contributing to the discussions on the importance of vocational education.*



*One of the products on display produced by students was fertiliser granulator.*



# UB Participates at Maranyane Bokamoso Programme Festival to Empower Future STEM Leaders

The University of Botswana (UB) participated at this year's Debswana Jwaneng Mine Maranyane (JMM) Bokamoso Programme as part of its efforts to support the next generation of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) leaders.

Several graduates of this transformative programme are preparing to advance their academic journey by enrolling in STEM programmes at UB for the 2024/25 academic year. The milestone underscores the University's commitment to empowering young women and promoting STEM education as a critical driver of Botswana's future development. The Maranyane Bokamoso Programme, a joint initiative between Debswana Jwaneng Mine and the Dare to Dream Foundation,

is dedicated to inspiring high-performing young girls to explore careers in STEM. The programme equips participants with essential tools and experiences through coaching sessions, innovation camps and job shadowing opportunities.

The activities not only expose students to the global relevance of STEM but also allow them to develop innovative solutions for safe mining practices and gain firsthand experience by observing female engineers and innovators at work within Jwaneng Mine. Captain Kgomotso Phatsima, an alumna of the University of Botswana and founder of the Dare to Dream Foundation, has been instrumental in driving the success of this initiative. The programme's impact is evident, with approximately 20 percent of its participants expected to

enroll in UB's STEM programmes, further demonstrating the University's role in nurturing future leaders and innovators.

Thus, the 2024 career fair provided an ideal platform for UB to engage with these aspiring students, offering them valuable information about academic programmes, admission requirements, and application processes.

For the graduates, the event marked a significant step towards actualising their dreams, bridging their preparatory experiences with the academic opportunities at UB. The University's involvement in the programme and career fair demonstrated its ongoing commitment to fostering talent and contributing to Botswana's socio-economic development through STEM education.



*Some of the Jwaneng Mine Maranyane (JMM) Bokamoso Programme graduates who will be enrolling for STEM programmes at the University of Botswana in the 2024/25 Academic Year at the 2024 career fair.*



# Gambling Authority to Sponsor Ten Students

The Gambling Authority and the University of Botswana (UB) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), marking the launch of the Motshameko-O-Phepa Academic Sponsorship.

According to the partnership the Gambling Authority will sponsor six (6) master's degree students and four (4) PhD/Doctorate candidates in the field of gambling research and development. The supervision of the scholars will be under the University of Botswana.

University of Botswana was represented by the Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris and the Gambling Authority was represented by the Chief Executive Officer, Emolemo Peter Kesitilwe.



UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris signing the MoU with Gambling Authority CEO, Mr Emolemo Kesitilwe.



Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, Professor Ramogola-Masire and Chief Operations Officer, Mr Dawid Katzke, also attended the signing ceremony. Right: Professor David Norris and Mr Emolemo Kesitilwe.





In Pursuit of Academic Excellence

## VISION

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

## MISSION

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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