



UB Radio Pioneering New Era in Campus Broadcasting & Community Engagement

The milestone signals not only the evolution of the radio station but also a commitment to bridging the gap between academia and the wider community

The University of Botswana (UB) has taken a bold step in transforming its media landscape with the official launch of UB Radio 99.5FM, marking a new chapter in broadcasting, student engagement and community dialogue. The milestone signals not only the evolution of the radio station into a powerful platform for expression, learning and social impact but also a commitment to bridging the gap between academia and the wider community.

Delivering a keynote address at the launch, Minister of Higher Education, Hon Prince Maele, hailed UB Radio 99.5FM as a transformative platform that would link the University with its diverse stakeholders. He stressed that the station would serve as a vital channel for disseminating key messages, connecting training opportunities with potential employment



Ms Thamani Mogapi of UB Radio interviewing Mr John Stegling, Chief Meteorologist at the Department of Meteorological Services, during World Radio Day in Tshesebe.

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EDITOR'S NOTE – FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the February 2025 edition of the University of Botswana (UB) Newsletter, a window into the vibrant pulse of our institution and its growing impact beyond the campus gates.

This issue brings to the fore a range of compelling stories that reflect UB's commitment to academic excellence, innovation, sustainability and societal progress. At the heart of it, is our unwavering drive to stay relevant, lead with purpose and embrace change.

We highlight the pioneering efforts of UB Radio which is ushering in a new era of campus broadcasting and community engagement, thus giving voice to both students and staff in shaping public discourse. Equally inspiring is the call by an artificial intelligence (AI) expert, urging African youth to seize the opportunities that AI presents for economic transformation.

Energy security continues to dominate global conversations and UB is right at the centre. We feature insights from the 2024 SADC Sustainable Energy Week where the University championed renewable energy innovation. The abundance of solar in the region was positioned as a strategic solution to the energy crisis, a beacon of hope and opportunity for Botswana and the wider SADC community.

On the academic front, the UB Budget Review dissects the national budget's implications while our Department of Chemistry and Chemistry Club continue to inspire future scientists through skills-building and the inaugural Global Women's Breakfast, promoting gender equity in science.

Our engagement with national institutions is reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UB and the Ministry of Sport and Arts which sets the stage for a sustainable sports and arts ecosystem. We also bring you updates from the field as UB Hawks, despite bowing out of the Orange FA Cup, turn their focus to next season with renewed optimism. Finally, in a nod to our growing research influence, the Office of Research and Innovation (ORI) continues to lead climate change advocacy, reinforcing our commitment to global sustainability goals.

We hope this edition informs, inspires and reminds you of the important role our University plays in shaping a better future. Thank you for being part of the UB community.

Warm regards,

Thomas T. Nkhoma

Highlights...



President Boko Urges Tougher Stance on Financial Crimes

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Ms Atsile Molapisi from Tshesebe Primary School in an interview with Thamani Mogapi of UB Radio during World Radio Day in Tshesebe.

prospects and fostering both personal and professional growth. Hon Misister Maele further reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting responsible journalism, educational transformation and economic empowerment.

Minister of Communications and Innovation (MOCI), Hon David Tshere, described UB Radio as a landmark in Botswana's evolving media space. He acknowledged its role as a community radio station that not only promoted knowledge-sharing and critical discussions but also provided professional media training. The Minister noted that offering students, academics and the broader public a space to engage on pressing national issues, the station was

expected to contribute significantly to shaping Botswana's media landscape.

UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, described radio as an essential academic tool. He noted that it played a crucial role in knowledge dissemination, fostering intellectual dialogue and strengthening the connection between the University and the wider community. Professor Norris said beyond entertainment, UB Radio would serve as a powerful medium for enhancing learning, promoting research and amplifying student and community voices hence making education more accessible and impactful.

Acting Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Thapelo Otlogetswe, said the

launch on FM was a significant leap forward. He explained that the station's use of cutting-edge technology, its diverse new programming lineup and steadfast commitment to providing impactful content that resonated with a wide range of listeners. UB Radio is poised to empower young voices, nurture creativity and become a pivotal force in Botswana's media landscape, added Professor Otlogetswe.

UB Radio Coordinator, Dr William Lesitaokana, outlined the station's ambitious vision that it was, among others, to establish itself as a leading hub for innovative and inclusive broadcasting that seamlessly bridges education, entertainment and community engagement. Dr Lesitaokana explained that with state-of-the-art technology and compelling programming, UB Radio aimed at reflecting the vibrant spirit and values of the University of Botswana. He added that the station sought to serve as a beacon of excellence in media and communication. Acting Head of the Department of Media Studies, Mr Patrick Lekgetho, underscored the university's role in driving Botswana's transformation from a resource-led to a knowledge-based economy and highlighted UB's dedication to making a tangible difference in society through such initiatives ■



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

APPLICATIONS ADMISSION 2025

Closing Date 31st May 2025

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Expert Urges African Youth to Tap into AI for Economic Opportunities

AI is rising and reshaping industries globally to offer transformative opportunities

Renowned Artificial Intelligence (AI) expert and Bright Mind Agency founder, Mr Alexander Morad, has called on African countries to harness Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance business efficiency and expand their reach in global markets. Based in Sweden, Morad underlined the transformative potential of AI in driving innovation and competitiveness across various industries. Mr Morad made the remarks during a public lecture "AI or Die" held at the University of Botswana (UB) campus Indoor Sports Centre on the 10th of February 2025. The objective of the lecture was to advocate for digital transformation and inspire institutions to embrace the limitless potential of artificial intelligence and digital tools.

Mr Morad said AI was rising globally and

reshaping industries worldwide, offering transformative opportunities. He said African countries should leverage the potential of AI to keep pace with the developed world and avoid falling behind in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

He noted that Botswana was well-positioned to leverage AI given its 80 percent literacy rate which could be harnessed to unlock entrepreneurship opportunities. He further highlighted AI's potential to democratise knowledge, making information more accessible to a wider population. In addition, he indicated that businesses could utilise AI to enhance service delivery, improve customer experiences, boost efficiency and drive productivity.

Mr Morad stated that AI should be seen as a

tool for enhancing jobs instead of replacing them. He said while AI may not solve everything, it had the power to transform and evolve various industries. Furthermore, he noted that AI could play a role in addressing unemployment challenges and encouraged individuals particularly content creators and prompters to harness its potential as a means of livelihood.

Mr Morad encouraged unemployed youth to leverage AI as a tool for generating income and creating sustainable livelihoods. He highlighted key areas with high potential for AI-driven opportunities including digital marketing, advertisement creation, image and video editing, online courses, music production and content creation.

Mr Morad lamented that African countries had largely been excluded from global AI discussions. To bridge the gap, he has embarked on a tour across the continent to empower communities with knowledge on AI and its transformative impact ■



Members of the public who attended a Public lecture on Artificial Intelligence (AI) interacting with Bright Mind Agency Founder, Mr Alexander Morad.

Abundance of Solar in SADC Region Presents Attractive Alternative Solution to Energy Crisis Opportunities

International Energy Agency estimates indicate that solar energy system can provide 70 – 80 percent of the region's solar water heating demands



Professor David Norris emphasising a point on the need of harnessing solar energy in the region.

The University of Botswana (UB) Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, has said the abundance of solar energy in Southern African Community (SADC) region presents attractive alternative

solution to energy crisis in the region.

Professor Norris made the remarks during the week-long 8th SOLTRAIN (Southern African Solar Thermal Training and Demonstration Initiative) Conference in

Gaborone on the 26th of February 2025. He was speaking on the theme "Advancing Solar Thermal Technologies for Sustainable Energy: Innovations, Applications and Future Directions."

The conference which is held at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC) from the 24th – 28th February 2025 and held under the theme: "Accelerating Sustainable Energy Solutions for an Energy Secure SADC Region". To that end, Professor Norris urged the region to harness solar energy to meet its growing energy demands, underlining its affordability, reliability and sustainability as an environmentally friendly solution.

He said International Energy Agency estimates indicated that solar energy system could provide 70 – 80 percent of the region's solar water heating demands. He added that energy demands in the region



Professor Kevin Nwaigwe, Botswana SOLTRAIN+ Project Leader, listening attentively

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UB Budget Dialogue Explores National Budget Implications, Challenges and Opportunities

Speakers highlight concerns over Government inefficiencies, budget sustainability and accountability



Dr Godisang Mookodi and Dr Kgomoetso Jongman from UB in a panel discussion with Mr Thulani Mpete from Botswana Economics Society.

The University of Botswana (UB) hosted its second UB Budget Dialogue at the UB Campus Indoor Sports Centre on the 4th of February 2025. The event, themed "UBudget: Turning Thoughts into Action" brought together academics, policymakers and stakeholders to discuss the 2025 national budget, its allocations and impact on various sectors of the economy.

Discussions centred on key economic concerns including the P65 billion recurrent budget, which represents a 3.5 percent increase from the previous year and the P23 billion development budget which saw a 21 percent decline. Speakers expressed concerns over Government inefficiencies, budget sustainability and accountability while also highlighting opportunities for economic growth and policy reforms.

Giving an overview, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Enterprise, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire, underscored UB's role in

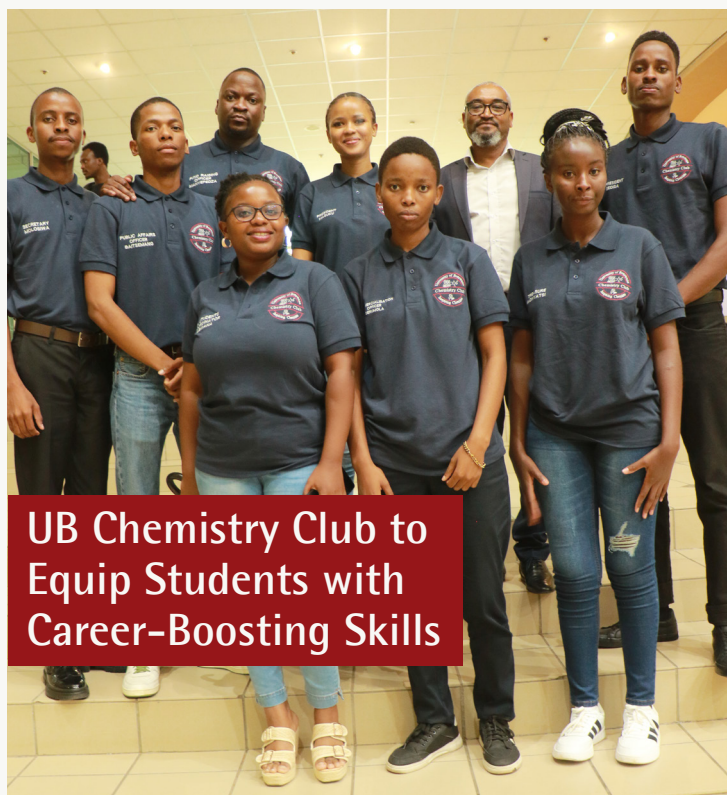
fostering meaningful dialogue that bridged academia, industry and policy-making. She observed that budget speeches were often technical, making it crucial for platforms such as the UB Budget Dialogue to simplify complexities and ensure inclusive engagement. "The national budget is not just a financial statement but a reflection of our country's priorities, challenges and aspirations," she noted.

Deputy Secretary for Development Budget at the Ministry of Finance, Mr Ignatius Oarabile, explained that the budget was structured around the new government's aspirations with a focus on improving quality of life and modernising public services. He acknowledged inefficiencies in service delivery and emphasised the need for stricter accountability measures to prevent financial leakages.

Meanwhile, Professor Happy Siphambe and Dr Godisang Mookodi noted that

while the budget priorities remained largely unchanged from the previous administration, there was a welcome shift towards gender-responsive budgeting and efforts to address issues such as gender-based violence (GBV). Botswana Economics Society Vice President, Mr Thulani Mpete, raised concerns over youth unemployment which stands at 40 percent, criticising the lack of concrete solutions in the budget speech.

The event concluded with a call for greater transparency in government procurement processes and a more strategic approach to addressing economic challenges. The acting Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Tachilisa Balule, stressed that oversight and accountability must be strengthened to ensure that public funds were used effectively ■



Students at the University of Botswana (UB) now have a platform to sharpen their technical and soft skills, thanks to the newly launched Chemistry Club which aims to enhance career prospects and foster a passion for chemistry. The club will provide opportunities for students to collaborate on projects, network with professionals and participate in workshops designed to build essential skills such as communication, teamwork, leadership and problem-solving. One of its key initiatives will be representing the Department of Chemistry

at the National Science Week and STEM Festival. President of the Academy of Science and a lecturer in the Department of Chemistry, Professor Ishmael Masesane, has underscored the importance of equipping students with both technical expertise and soft skills. Professor Masesane noted that while laboratory work taught technical proficiency, skills such as leadership, time management and collaboration were equally important for career success.

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Solar...Continued from Page 5

continued to grow and outpaced supply, resulting in economic growth challenges. Furthermore, the Vice Chancellor noted that SOLTRAIN aimed at reducing energy poverty, improving access to sustainable energy as well as contributing towards sustainable development goals.

Professor Norris highlighted achievements of the SOLTRAIN initiative in Botswana such as trainings and awareness campaigns on solar thermal technologies. He stated that the SOLTRAIN project had trained 600 individuals from various institutions and successfully fostered entrepreneurial opportunities in solar thermal technologies, thereby creating jobs.

The SOLTRAIN project has undertaken many African awareness activities such as technical tours targeting policy makers, said the Vice Chancellor. He added that SOLTRAIN contributed towards

policy initiative such as development of Botswana's thermal technology roadmap and research development.

Professor Norris further highlighted SOLTRAIN's achievements including the successful implementation of demonstration projects in public institutions and communities. These include a 4000-liter hot water system at Maruapula Hostels, 7000-liter system at Mogoditshane Laundry, 5000-liter system at Camphill Community Trust, 5000-liter system at the Botswana Defence Force (BDF), 3000-liter system at Pudulugong Rehabilitation Centre and 20 000-liter system at UB.

Austria Ambassador to South Africa, Ms Romana Konigsbrun, commended SOLTRAIN project for significant milestone achievement in advancing solar energy for sustainable energy future in the SADC

region. Ms Konigsbrun said the SOLTRAIN initiative enhanced international cooperation and knowledge sharing in addressing pressing energy challenges. She further encouraged the region to harness the abundance resources for solar technologies to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and pave way for clean and sustainable energy.

Meanwhile, Austria Development Agency Sustainable Energy Specialist, Mr Manfred Burstmayr, observed that the SOLTRAIN initiative was a regional programme that promoted solar thermal energy as a sustainable alternative to conventional energy sources. He said SOLTRAIN aimed at developing sustainable energy solutions that reduced dependency on fossil fuels besides mitigating climate change impact. ■

President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko has called for stronger measures to combat corruption, financial impropriety and illicit financial flows. The President warned that the challenges threatened the country's economic growth and ability to attract foreign investment. He was speaking at a two-day Judicial Colloquium on Combating Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Proliferation Financing, held in Gaborone from the 25th - 26th of February 2025.

The Colloquium, hosted by the University of Botswana (UB) through its Institute for Combating Illicit Financial Flows (ICIFF), in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and the Administration of Justice, was aimed at equipping judicial officers with the necessary expertise to effectively handle financial crimes.

President Boko underscored the need for a robust legal framework to detect, investigate and prosecute financial crimes to ensure that the proceeds of corruption were recovered and returned to the public. He noted that while foreign direct investment was critical to economic development, Botswana's ability to attract investors hinged on its success in tackling corruption and safeguarding public resources.

Echoing the President's sentiments, UB Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Norris, highlighted the University's growing role in research and training on financial crimes. Professor Norris stated that the colloquium was part of UB's broader vision to position itself as a leading institution in financial crime prevention both in Botswana and across Africa. The initiative, he added, was aligned with the University's ongoing transformation to become a more impactful and relevant institution as a High-Performance Organisation (HPO).

The colloquium brought together justices of the Court of Appeal, retired judges, anti-money laundering experts and academics to discuss

President Boko Urges Tougher Stance on Financial Crimes

...as UB Strengthens its Role in Illicit Finance Prevention



President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko (Top) and Professor David Norris addressing the judges.

the judiciary's role in enforcing the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations. The discussions were particularly critical as Botswana prepares for its third-round Mutual Evaluation scheduled for June/July 2027. The assessment will examine the judiciary's effectiveness in prosecuting financial crimes,

imposing appropriate sanctions and recovering illicit assets.

The Institute for Combating Illicit Financial Flows has been set up to build capacity in enhancing the quality of anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing implementation programmes ■

Chemistry Department Hosts Inaugural Global Women's Breakfast to Promote Gender Equity in Science

...opportunity to break barriers and address challenges faced by women

The University of Botswana (UB) Department of Chemistry hosted the first of its kind Global Women's Breakfast: Empowering Women in Chemistry on the 11th of February 2025. Under the theme

"Accelerating Equity in Science," the event focused on building a strong network to advance gender equality and empower women in the scientific community. Dr Fortune Phenyio Sejie, an Inorganic Chemistry Lecturer, outlined the importance of the breakfast session as an opportunity to break barriers and address challenges faced by women in science. She pointed out that gender issues in chemistry and science often stemmed

from cultural stereotypes that confined women to domestic roles. As a result, the field often failed to accommodate women's needs such as maternity leave, hindering

their academic and professional growth. Dr Sejie further highlighted that existing policies did not adequately supported women's ambitions to progress at the same rate as their male counterparts. By

encourage inclusive innovation, address disparities and promote diverse participation. That, in turn, drives meaningful advancements in the scientific community that benefited all.



Some of the women scientists who attended the inaugural Global Women's Breakfast.

The Global Women's Breakfast: Empowering Women in Chemistry, coincides with the International Day of Women and Girls in Science and serves as a vital platform for women to connect, share experiences and develop strategies to overcome the challenges they face in their professional journeys. By empowering women and promoting gender equality, the event contributes to a more inclusive and innovative scientific community.

Participants shares their experiences and journey as women either studying and or practicing in the chemistry field ■

UB Chemistry Club...Continued from Page 7

"Students will develop essential soft skills such as leadership, time management, people management, collaboration and communication. These skills are crucial for their careers and are not typically taught in the lab," he said.

Beyond academic development, the club plans to engage the wider community through outreach programmes that highlight the role of chemistry in everyday life. It will also organise symposia and workshops to promote creativity and scientific inquiry.

Led by an executive committee, the club is open to all UB students, staff, postgraduate students and chemistry alumni. Membership requires a fee and interested individuals are encouraged to join to take full advantage of the opportunities offered ■

University of Botswana Advocates for Renewable Energy Innovation at 2024 SADC Sustainable Energy Week

Aim is to develop sustainable energy solutions to reduce dependency on fossil fuels.

The University of Botswana (UB) was among institutions that participated at a weeklong 2024 SADC Sustainable Energy Week held at the Gaborone International Conference Centre (GICC). The event, themed "Accelerating Sustainable Energy Solutions for an Energy Secure SADC Region," commenced on the 24th of February and will conclude on the 28th of February 2025. UB is contributing through the SOLTRAIN project which focuses on "Advancing Solar Thermal Technologies for Sustainable Energy: Innovations, Applications, and Future Directions."

SOLTRAIN (Southern African Solar Thermal Training and Demonstration Initiative) is a regional programme that promotes solar thermal energy as a sustainable alternative to conventional energy sources. Based at the University's Clean Energy Research Centre (CERC), the project provides training, capacity-building and technical support to advance solar thermal applications across various sectors including residential, industrial and institutional settings.

Through research and demonstration projects, SOLTRAIN aims at developing sustainable energy solutions that reduce dependency on fossil fuels and mitigate climate change impacts. Therefore, UB's involvement underscores its commitment to driving innovation in renewable energy and supporting regional efforts towards a low-carbon future.

Officially opening the event, President Advocate Duma Boko called on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to prioritise sustainable energy



President Advocate Duma Boko



Staff of the UB's Clean Energy Research Centre (CERC) with some delegates from the Austria Development Agency at the 2024 SADC Sustainable Energy Week in Gaborone.

policies in their national development agendas.

He urged member states to accelerate renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives while integrating environmental protection measures. The President underscored the need for clear roadmaps to guide an equitable energy transition which is tailored to the region's unique realities. Furthermore, President Boko encouraged SADC to set tangible targets to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and significantly increase the adoption of renewable energy sources.

He emphasized the importance of

investing in sustainable energy to mitigate environmental impacts and harness SADC's abundant solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal resources for socio-economic growth.

Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Bogolo Kenewendo, highlighted SADC's progress in expanding renewable energy, strengthening regulations and fostering regional cooperation. However, she noted persistent challenges including energy poverty, financing gaps and climate change. She underlined the need for collaboration and innovative solutions to ensure future

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ORI Champions Fight Against Climate Change

Botswana experiencing frequent heatwaves leading to a rise in cardiovascular diseases



Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire with Assistant Minister of Health, Mr Lawrence Ookeditse and Dr Fabian Ndenkazako, World Health Organisation (WHO) Representative.

The Okavango Research Institute (ORI) hosted a two-day Climate Change and Health Security Symposium, themed "Advancing Climate Change and Health Security in Botswana," from the 20th to 21st February 2024. The symposium was aimed at creating a platform for dialogue and action at the intersection of climate change and public health.

The Chairperson of the Symposium, Dr Vincent Pagiwa highlighted the increasing health threats posed by climate change in Botswana. He pointed out that the country was experiencing frequent heatwaves which have led to a rise in cardiovascular diseases particularly among the elderly. Dr Pagiwa noted that severe floods and a surge in climate-sensitive infectious diseases such as malaria in the Okavango region, were

putting immense strain on the healthcare system. He emphasised that strengthening health system resilience through multi-sectoral and transdisciplinary research collaborations was crucial in mitigating these challenges.

Meanwhile Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Enterprise, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire, acknowledged the efforts of the Climate Health Africa Network for Collaboration and Engagement (CHANCE Network) - an initiative established by the University of Botswana (UB) in 2022. Professor Ramogola-Masire explained that the network facilitated dialogue between health researchers, meteorological services, and climate scientists across Africa, helping to identify research gaps, priority areas and effective

interventions.

"We have invited you together with our collaborators to showcase the cutting-edge national research efforts that can be closely incorporated into uniquely tailored adaptation and mitigation strategies for the country's health systems towards achieving optimum health security," she said.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Minister of Health, Mr Lawrence Ookeditse, underscored the Government's commitment to including climate change in national security strategies. He highlighted the need for continued collaboration in tackling climate-related health risks and called for greater focus on mental health and overall citizen well-being as part of climate adaptation efforts.

For his part, Dr Fabian Ndenkazako, World Health Organisation (WHO) representative said Climate change contributed directly to humanitarian emergencies. He added that Climate-related health emergencies were on the rise in Africa, accounting for more than half of public health events recorded in the region over the past two decades. Dr Ndenkazako added that WHO adopted a "One Health and All Hazards" approach to climate-related public health events. An approach based on the premise that human, animal and ecosystem health was interconnected and required a coordinated approach to tackle and resolve the challenges.

In addition, she said the symposium assessed challenges and proposed evidence-based solutions with an array of climate and health experts from various countries such as south Africa, Ghana and Mozambique to name a few ■

Department of Architecture and Planning Students Advised to Collaborate and Network with Industry Experts

Meaningful connections facilitate knowledge exchange, exposure to best practices and access to emerging technologies.



Department of Architecture and Planning (DAP) students during a Sports and Mentorship Day at UB.

Gabana Architects Director, Mr Moemedi Gabana, has urged students from the Department of Architecture and Planning (DAP) at the University of Botswana (UB) to actively collaborate and network with industry professionals to enhance their career development.

Speaking at the DAP Students' Professional, Sports and Mentorship Day held at the UB Campus Indoor Sports Centre on the 6th of February 2025, Mr Gabana underscored the importance of working alongside experts such as engineers, interior designers and landscape architects. He noted that interdisciplinary collaboration fostered creativity, innovation and

effective problem-solving within the industry. He further encouraged students to build strong professional networks, highlighting that meaningful connections with peers, clients and industry leaders facilitated knowledge exchange, exposure to best practices and access to emerging technologies.

Morox Properties (Pty) Ltd Managing Director, Mr Kagiso Morokotso, encouraged the student to seek advice and mentorship to enhance their knowledge and capabilities. In addition, he advised the students to join networking professional associations and organisations to meet potential collaborators, mentors and clients.

Meanwhile, Meralo Designs (Pty) Ltd Director, Mr Kagiso Tshukudu, challenged the students to be creative and innovative in shaping and pushing the future of architectural designs. He advised them to take the profession seriously and advocate change of urban policy to encouraged new developments.

RDC Property Group Chief Operations Officer, Mr Ugoma Anugom, urged the students to make use of new technologies to transform architect and align with international practices. He said architecture industry was under rapid transformation, driven by the advent of new technologies ■



One of the students delivering a speech on the objectives of the event.

SRC Hosts Prayer and Intercession for UB Community

Gaborone – The University of Botswana (UB) Student Representative Council (SRC) on 7th of February 2025 hosted a prayer and intercession session at the Student Centre foyer, bringing together the UB community to seek divine guidance for the new semester. The event, themed “Light Up Mmadikolo,” was a powerful display of unity and faith as students gathered in solidarity to pray for their academic journeys, well-being and the future of the institution.

In his opening address, SRC Minister of Student Affairs, Mr Thabo Thata, underscored the importance of beginning the semester with prayer. “As we embark on a new academic journey, it is vital to invite God’s guidance and light into our lives and the University of Botswana,” he said. Mr Thata urged attendees to remember their fellow students, academic journeys, overall well-being and the leadership of both UB as well as Botswana in their prayers. Reverend Simon Muloso, who is a counsellor, shared an inspiring message, explaining that “Light Up Mmadikolo” was not only a prayer but a declaration by the UB community to be the guiding light of the institution. He spoke about

the importance of being exemplary especially during challenging times and encouraged those present to lead lives of integrity and truth.

“We are called to shine in moments of confusion, help one another find grace and unite in prayer to bring clarity and hope to others,” stated Reverend Muloso.

SRC President, Mr Topo Kwena, expressed joy at the success of the event, noting, “The turnout and enthusiasm from the UB community, especially on such short notice, reflect our commitment to coming together in prayer and allowing God to guide us.”

He thanked everyone who attended and responded to the call for spiritual unity, reaffirming the collective dedication of the UB community to seek divine intervention ■



Rev Simon Moluso from Careers and Counselling Unit emphasising a point.

“Light Up Mmadikolo” not only a prayer but a declaration to be the guiding light of the institution

Renewable Energy...Continued from Page 7

energy security, sustainability and universal access at equitable and affordable prices. Meanwhile, SADC Executive Secretary, Mr Elias Magosi, indicated SADC continued to face power shortages due to inadequate infrastructure development and debilitating effects of climate change. Reflecting on the regional energy mix, Mr Magosi noted that coal made 60 percent of energy generation while hydro power accounted for 24 percent with renewable energy trailing at 10 percent.

He explained that climate change had hindered sustainable energy security in the region. While some countries such as Mauritius and Seychelles had achieved universal electricity access, others had rates below 30 percent. Consequently, he called for urgent and robust action to diversify energy sources particularly through wind and solar power ■

UB, Ministry of Sport and Arts Sign MoU to Develop Sustainable Sport & Arts Ecosystem

Collaboration with UB to create avenues for youth employment, promote growth of the creative industry



Minister of Sport and Arts, Mr Jacob Kelebeg and Professor David Norris, signing the Memorandum of Understanding.

The University of Botswana (UB) and the Ministry of Sport and Arts (MOSA) strengthened their commitment to fostering a sustainable ecosystem for sports and the arts in Botswana by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the 7th of February 2025, at the UB Council Chamber.

Minister of Sport and Arts, Hon. Jacob Kelebeg, underscored the significance of the MoU in tackling youth unemployment which he said had been exacerbated by limited opportunities and underutilised potential including UB's state-of-the-art facilities. He observed that collaboration with UB would create avenues for youth employment, promote growth of the creative industry as well as revitalise sports in

schools.

"There's an urgent need for proactive measures to avoid social and economic instability. Therefore, we decided to pursue this collaboration with UB as a key institution that has untapped resources, such as research infrastructure and academic departments," said Hon. Kelebeg.

Meanwhile Acting Director at the Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation, Dr Comfort Mokgothu, affirmed UB's pivotal role in the advancement of sports, arts and culture. Dr Mokgothu pointed out that UB was uniquely positioned to drive the development of sports and promote the arts through research, talent identification, strategic partnerships and community engagement. He also mentioned



Dr Comfort Mokgothu reaffirming the role of sports development in Botswana.

that UB boasted a pool of experts in sports science, including sports psychologists, sports medicine physiologists and biomechanicists, equipped with skills in modern training technologies.

Dr Mokgothu further stated that the arts were integral to the country's cultural fabric and served as powerful tools for education, social cohesion and community development. He noted that UB supported both academic and non-academic arts through vibrant student led groups in traditional dance, marimba, jazz, poetry, songwriting and other activities.

For his part, UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, remarked that it was time for Botswana to leverage the value of sports and creative arts industry. Citing statistics from neighboring countries such as South Africa, Professor Norris indicated that sport and creative arts had the potential to enhance economic activity. He described the partnership with the Ministry as a step in the right direction ■

Gaborone – UB Hawks put up a spirited fight in the Orange FA Cup Season 6 but their journey ended in a 3-1 penalty shootout loss to Taung Young Strikers at the Tlokweneng Village Development Committee (VDC) Grounds on the 9th of February 2025. The match had ended in a one-all draw after regulation and extra time, forcing penalties where Young Strikers held their nerve to advance.

Taung Young Strikers, determined to avenge past encounters, started the game with high intensity, dominating possession and pressing hard. Their relentless attacks paid off in the 13th minute when Kaone Kame capitalised on a defensive lapse to put his side ahead.

The early goal awakened the Basco Boys who gradually pushed forward in search of an equaliser. Both teams displayed resilience with

Brave UB Hawks Bow Out of Orange FA Cup, Eye Next Season's Challenge

UB Hawks creating chances but struggling to break through a well-organised Young Strikers defence. The first half ended with the Hawks trailing 1-0.

The breakthrough for UB Hawks came in the 67th minute when Bokang Kwarare curled in a free kick that bounced awkwardly in front of the goalkeeper and slipped past him, levelling the score at 1-1. The match intensified as both sides searched for a winner but despite multiple chances, neither team could find the decisive

goal.

With the match locked at 1-1 after extra time, the dreaded penalty shootout followed. UB Hawks faltered under pressure, converting only one of their three spot-kicks while Taung Young Strikers scored all three of theirs, securing a 3-1 shootout victory and a place in the next round. For UB Hawks, it was a painful exit at the hands of a familiar foe. For Taung Young Strikers, it was sweet redemption as they marched on in the Orange FA Cup ■

Orange
FA Cup
Season 6





In Pursuit of Academic Excellence

VISION

By 2029 the University will be a distinctive centre of academic excellence in Botswana, Africa and globally.

MISSION

The University provides quality education, research, innovation and engagement for sustainable national development and global impact.



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