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UB AND FIA JOIN HANDS TO COMBAT ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS

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Advance Indigenous
Evaluation

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EDITOR'S NOTE

In this edition, we bring you, dear reader, an inspiring initiative spearheaded by the Pan African Indigenous Evaluation (PIE) Consortium, in partnership with the University of Botswana (UB) and generously supported by the Mastercard Foundation.

The Consortium has embarked on a transformative journey aimed at redefining evaluation methods through the lens of African traditions.

Join us as we explore how this groundbreaking project seeks to develop innovative tools and frameworks that resonate with the cultures, philosophies and histories of African peoples. We uncover the motivations behind this endeavour, as articulated by Professor Bagele Chilisa, the Principal Investigator, and examine the anticipated impact on the evaluation landscape.

Yet again, UB continues to embark on a transformative journey of internationalisation, weaving a vibrant tapestry of collaborations across the Caribbean and Africa. Such partnerships are not only academic but are also bridges of understanding and innovation that unite diverse minds to cultivate a global symphony of knowledge and cultural exchange.

Therefore, UB's commitment to these regions not only breathes life into new research endeavours and educational opportunities but also enriches both local and global communities.

On the home front, UB's dedication to nurturing human capital begins at grassroots level. Engaging with secondary school students through career fairs, UB sows the seeds of inspiration and ambition.

These young minds, eager and bright, are guided towards a horizon of endless possibilities, where higher education becomes the key to unleashing their potential. Through such early interventions, UB's influence blossoms, shaping future leaders and innovators who will carry forward the legacy of global inter-connectedness and academic excellence.

Read also about UB and the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA) forging a powerful alliance to establish a Centre for Combating Illicit Financial Flows and Financial Terrorism.

At the signing ceremony, Acting Vice Chancellor Mr Dawid Katzke, spoke of a bright future where academic expertise and international standards converge. Such partnership heralds a new era of vigilance and integrity that promises to fortify Botswana's defences against financial crime.

I hope you will find the articles interesting and refreshing to read.

Thank You!

Highlights...



CONTRIBUTORS:

Phillip Oabona
Setshwano Moaisi
Lone Tihomamo

LAYOUT AND PRODUCTION:

University of Botswana
Department of Public Affairs
Publications Section

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The Pan African Indigenous Evaluation (PIE) Consortium which includes the University of Botswana (UB) has received a P10 million funding from Mastercard Foundation to undertake a year-long research project.

The project is aimed at developing and refining evaluation methods rooted in African traditions.

The objective of the project is to create tools, frameworks and protocols specifically tailored for the advancement and support for African communities.

During a recent stakeholder engagement, Principal Investigator, Professor Bagele Chilisa, said the project was derived from the realisation that current evaluation methods often overlooked the true impact on the livelihoods of African indigenous communities.

Professor Chilisa acknowledged that while existing frameworks were valuable, their concern as researchers and scholars was on how such instruments were contextualised to effectively respond to the needs and priorities of indigenous communities.

She noted that the funding would enable them to conduct extensive research. The new approaches will be informed by the cultures, philosophies and history of African peoples, thereby ensuring that they were more relevant and effective in addressing the unique needs and

Mastercard Foundation Funds Pan African Indigenous Evaluation Consortium with P10 Million

The aim is to address power asymmetries and to amplify voices of marginalised communities across Africa.



Professor Chilisa says the aim is to develop methods rooted in African traditions.

priorities of indigenous communities.

"We gained political independence, but the issue now is independence of the mind. An independent mind that can create its own, such that it becomes a global package that informs evaluation of projects and

truth on what happens in the field and communities," said Professor Chilisa. Meanwhile, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Enterprise, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire, expressed support for the project, noting that the central idea was to address power asymmetries and to amplify the voices of marginalised communities across Africa.

Professor Masire indicated that by collaborating and innovating with the Mastercard Foundation and other stakeholders, the project would create a lasting impact on the field of evaluation and ultimately improve the lives of African nations.

"The Consortium is truly committed to driving competitive change which will ensure that the evaluation is reflective of the diverse realities and experiences of people across Africa," reiterated Professor Masire. The Consortium members include the University of Botswana, Africa Nazarene University, University of Ghana, Data Innovators, Tiymele Consultants and the Africa Evaluation Association.



Dr Boitumelo Mangope from Faculty of Education with other participants during a stakeholder engagement exercise.

UB and FIA Establish Centre for Combating Illicit Financial Flows & Financial Terrorism



FIA Director General, Ms Bopelokgale Soko and Acting Vice Chancellor, Mr Dawid Katzke, appending their signatures to the MoU.

The University of Botswana (UB) and the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA) have forged an alliance to establish a Centre for Combating Illicit Financial Flows and Financial Terrorism in Botswana.

The University and the Financial Intelligence Agency have established a collaborative partnership aimed at bolstering Botswana's capacity to combat financial crimes. The two (2) organisations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently at the University of Botswana.

Speaking at the MoU signing ceremony, the Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Botswana, Mr Dawid Katzke, indicated that the partnership with FIA aligns with the University Strategy to strengthen societal engagement and economic influence. In addition, he highlighted that the Centre would be effective given the expertise and experience that are resident within the University. Mr Katzke stated that integrating the functions of the University with those of other domestic and international agencies will boost

the nation's capacity to address financial crime and enhance compliance with international standards, thereby improving effectiveness.

In response, Ms Bopelokgale Soko, FIA Director General, Ministry of Finance, noted that the signing of the MoU signifies government's commitment to combating money laundering and acknowledging that it is not solely the responsibility of the government, but rather a collective responsibility involving all stakeholders.

According to Ms Soko, illicit financial flows was a serious concern even at international level, adding that the United Nations Conference on Trade estimated that, annually, Africa loses about US 88.6 billion due to illicit financial flows.

Therefore, the establishment of the Centre was a strategic response to address Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) in Botswana.

Ms Bopelokgale Soko further highlighted that training and capacity building serve as essential benchmarks used by the Financial

Action Task Force (FATF) to evaluate the effectiveness of the country's AML/CFT framework in implementing FATF Standards.

Botswana is approaching its third Mutual Evaluation under the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG), scheduled for January 2027, she continued. "Preparations for this evaluation have already commenced, and the Centre will play a pivotal role in enhancing our readiness by facilitating capacity building," Ms Soko added.

Giving a vote of thanks, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire, stressed that researchers should continually adapt as tactics employed by money launderers shift continually. She observed that the changing trends necessitate innovation and vigilance. Professor Ramogola-Masire noted the importance of staying ahead of fraudulent tactics to prevent the loss of millions of dollars annually in African countries, including Botswana.

Four Industrial Design & Technology Students Win WIP Day Botswana Innovation Competition

The competition attracted innovators from various institutions and universities.

Four University of Botswana (UB) Industrial

Design and Technology students in the Faculty of Engineering and Technology proved to be a cut above the rest after they emerged victorious at the World Intellectual Property (IP) Day Botswana Innovation Competitions held in Gaborone on the 26th of April 2024.

Wedu Albert won first prize and total amount of P10 000 while the trio of Reginald Itiseng, Obakeng Maleke and Tlamelo Tumedi won second prize and P7000. The product that won the prize is a Soil Sample Collecting Machine designed by Wedu.

The machine ensures accuracy in soil sampling to meet diverse farming needs, delivering results to the user for analysis and informed decision-making. On the other hand, second prize winners designed a Push Assist Pro Machine. The machine is an innovative electronic shopping aid that addresses Sustainable Development Goals Nine and Eleven (SDGs 9 & 11). Promoting sustainable industry and innovative infrastructure, resilient cities and responsible consumption and production. The product enhances the shopping experience for individuals living with special needs, paralysis, lower limb physical impairments, rheumatoid arthritis, and osteoarthritis, thereby boosting their self-esteem

Other UB Industrial Design and

The trio of Reginald Itiseng, Obakeng Maleke and Tlamelo Tumedi won second prize and P7000.



Wedu's Soil Sample Collecting Machine won a first prize of P10 000

Technology students who took part in the competitions were Tefo Mokaro and Moitshephi Lucky who developed an Organic Fertilizer Granulator Machine. Kerapetse Kehakgametse and Jaden Movirimi also participated in Arts Illustrations.. Tefo and Moitshephi's machine works on reducing waste generation, optimising resource usage

and promoting recycling. The competition attracted innovators from various institutions and universities. The projects were evaluated based on these indicators; depiction of SDGs, manufacturing cost, durability, the problem addressed, potential for employment creation and commercialisation.



Rewriting History: Dispelling Myths and Misconceptions Through Transformative Narratives

Chair of the Afrospectives, a Global Africa Initiative, Dr Ali Moussa Iye, has underscored the need to rewrite African stories. He pointed out that, such would counter Eurocentric biases and oversimplified narratives which have led to widespread misunderstandings about Africa.

Dr Iye was delivering a public lecture on "Transforming Narrative: Endogenous Knowledge and African Modernity," at the University of Botswana Conference Centre on the 23rd of April 2024. He further observed that early reports about Africa were written by foreigners in foreign languages with the intention of upholding European dominance by pushing narratives of African inferiority. He said African cultures were examined through shaded lenses while African voices were silenced. That resulted in current narratives about African problems.

Dr Iye indicated that the current conversation on African problems composed of distortion, injustice, poverty, disease and political corruption. He said African scholars should focus on reclaiming their history and narrate their stories. Moreover, he said many African scholars had addressed the opposition between tradition and modernity underlining Pan Africanism and development as early as the 18th Century in an effort to develop knowledge that could support the liberation of African minds.

Dr Iye highlighted that African scholars



Dr Ali Moussa Iye advocating for the need to rewrite African stories to counter Eurocentric biases.

and activists had debunked the racial prejudices against people of African descent by highlighting the significant contribution they made to the general progress of humanity. He noted that scholars from South America and Asia had also challenged Western predation to universality and exemplarity. He also highlighted that Indian scholar, Dipesh Chakrabarty's publication on provincialising Europe, popularised the debate on deconstructing the paradigm of Western universal modernity.

Dr Iye said concept of coloniality had reshaped studies on colonialism by addressing the hierarchical relations imposed by Europeans based on racial, spiritual and linguistic criteria during conquest. He added that most

physiological, cultural ideological and economic assumption that drove the dominant system were today facing serious doubts on their universality.

This global crisis of dominant narratives offers Africans a golden opportunity to explore alternatives in all domains," said Dr Iye. Dr Iye added that Africans were subjected to slavery, colonisation and had no time to produce their own form of modernity. He emphasised that the modernity Africans received was imposed in that it did not emerge from within African societies but linked to coloniality which subjected Africans to the role of imitators.

He reiterated the need for a fresh perspective on African philosophy, encompassing democratic traditions, social interactions, ecology, medicine, water and cattle management, house building, education, and relationships with other entities.

Dr. Iye urged African scholars to draw from their own historical experiences and move beyond attempts to defend against prejudices imposed by others, which often drain energy and imagination through a process he termed 'Latimization'. He said African scholars need to chart their own course without wasting time trying to convenience humanity and the international community.



Some members of the public who attended the public lecture listening attentively.

Driving Global Collaboration

*Office of International Education Organises information session
for prospective students and researchers*

The University of Botswana (UB) Office of International Education and Partnerships recently organised an interactive DAAD Study and Research Opportunities Information Session for prospective applicants wishing to study or conduct research with German institutions of higher learning.

DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst or German Academic Exchange Service) Study and Research Opportunities Information provides details about scholarships, grants, and other funding opportunities for international students, researchers, and academics to study, conduct research or participate in the academic exchange programmes in Germany.

The opportunities are typically offered by the DAAD, a prestigious organisation that promotes international academic cooperation and exchange with Germany.

Speaking at the event which attracted classes of prospective students from within and outside UB, DAAD, Lecturer at University of Capetown, South Africa, Ms Eva Thamm, explained that DAAD was a self-governing organisation with 241 member universities and 104 student



DAAD Lecturer at University of Capetown, Ms Eva Thamm.

bodies.

Ms Thamma indicated that it was the world largest funding organisation through which, prospective applicants could access detailed information about various scholarships, grants, fellowships, and other funding opportunities offered by the DAAD and its partner institutions.

The opportunities cover a wide range of academic disciplines and fields of study, catering for undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and postdoctoral students, as well as researchers and faculty members.

Ms Thamma explained the importance of studying in Germany in that if offered high quality internationally recognised programmes both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She said there were more than 420 higher education institutions with 20 000 degrees on offer in Germany.

Apart from state-of-the-art facilities, security and stable economy, she said the cost of living was relatively affordable in Germany in that international students

could live off an average of P13 000 (euro 934) monthly stipend. The stipend covers accommodation, transport, health insurance and other incidental expenses. Speaking at the same event, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Enterprise, Professor Doreen Ramogola Masire, encouraged the participants to take advantage of the opportunities offered.

Office of International Education and Partnerships Acting Director, Dr Hiri-Khudu outlined the objective of her office that it was to foster international collaborations, partnerships and exchange programmes as part of UB's internationalisation strategic goal. Director Public Affairs, Dr Faith Rapuleng- Tuelo also encouraged the participants to utilise the opportunities offered for academic and self-development. She lauded the Office of International Education and Partnerships for organising the information sharing session, given that it was critical to equip applicants with relevant information.



Prof Doreen Ramogola-Masire

UB Embarks on Exploratory Visit to the University of The Bahamas

A delegation from the University of Botswana (UB) recently visited The Bahamas on a two-day exploratory visit to the University of The Bahamas (UB). Led by Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, the delegation's mission was to renew and explore more areas of collaboration between the two institutions.

The delegation actively engaged in meetings with University of The Bahamas Management, faculties and departments to explore potential areas of collaboration. The exercise followed His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana, Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi's State Visit to The Bahamas.

The visit at which His Excellency Dr Masisi outlined a comprehensive roadmap for collaboration between The Bahamas and Botswana, highlighted education, finance, trade and tourism as pivotal disciplines aligned with a shared vision for both nations.

The goal for the UB visit was to, among others, strengthen ties between the two (2) regions and institutions through futuristic discussions and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). "Economies are powered by knowledge, both Universities have done a lot in improving the livelihoods of their people, so this partnership will improve the livelihoods of the people of Botswana and The Bahamas Universities must enhance economic activities in their countries. I am looking forward to signing this Memorandum of Understanding," underscored Professor Norris.

Therefore, among key areas of collaboration, the MoU will provide students, faculties and researchers, in both institutions, with a wide range of options for achieving their educational, training and research goals, through development and execution of joint and/or dual undergraduate, graduate and certificate



programmes. The University of Botswana will further explore opportunities in various areas such as sport development, cultural studies, tourism, digital media and animation.

The exploratory visit also highlighted the historical ties between the two (2) regions and institutions, as well as specific areas of collaboration being explored. Meanwhile, the Vice Chancellor was accompanied by Director, Public Affairs, Dr Faith Rapuleng-Tuelo and Senior Executive Assistant, Office of the Vice Chancellor, Mr Moeng Segaetsho.

This partnership will improve the livelihoods of the people of Botswana and The Bahamas.

Catching Them Young



The University of Botswana (UB) team participated at the Moeding College Career Fair to share insights on programmes of study as well as providing career guidance.

The fair held under the theme 'Your Career Path: Mindset Change for New Opportunities in Careers and Skills Development' sought to provide a platform for sharing of information as well as expose students to myriad career opportunities.



School of Nursing Students Engage Block 8 Community on Non-Communicable Diseases

In a quest to tackle the Non – Communicable

Diseases (NCDs), the University of Botswana (UB) School of Nursing students recently embarked on a community outreach initiative at the Block 8, Customary Court in Gaborone. This was part of their undergraduate community health nursing course.

One of the module on the nursing course requires students to conduct research on key areas that affect the community in which they exist and expected to come up with solutions for the community. Over 100 Block 8 residents actively participated in this initiative, demonstrating the community's eagerness to prioritise health and well-being.

Highlighting the significance of the community outreach exercise, Professor Nthabiseng Phaladze, a Lecturer at the School of Nursing, observed that the initiative brought essential services directly to the people.

"This is actually what we talk about in Primary Health Care. It is about reducing the costs on people. This is also in line with



A nursing student conducting tests for NCDs on one of the residents.

the Sustainable

Development Goals Three (3), where we talk about universal health coverage," she underscored.

Through collaboration with other stakeholders such as the National Blood Transfusion Service, Cancer Association of Botswana, Nephrology Society of Botswana and others, students conducted a series of essential tests aimed at early detection and prevention of NCDs.

Among the tests conducted were hypertension screenings and tuberculosis checks, pivotal steps in identifying health concerns before they escalate. Furthermore, the exercise went beyond diagnostics through interactive sessions and one-on-one discussions. The students fostered a sense of empowerment among participants, equipping them with tools and knowledge to take charge of their health. ■



Some of the residents who attended the event waiting for their turn..

UB Conducts Executive Management Media Training With Prof JJ Tabane



Professor Tabane sharing some public relations tips with UB

The University of Botswana (UB) recently organised a media training initiative for its management team. The exercise was part of the UB's Communications Strategy aimed at fostering and strengthening the institution's media relations. It was also aimed at equipping and supporting UB management with media skills to navigate and engage with diverse media platforms for the benefit of the University.

The training was conducted by eNCA News Anchor and Media, Professor JJ Tabane, alongside Carte Blanche News Anchor and Investigative Journalist, Ms Masa Kekana. Professor Tabane emphasised the importance of building constructive relationships with the media and creating a positive communication culture within the institution, as key to enhancing organisational reputation.

His session entailed effective communication as a University Executive, tapping into a wide range of topics, including ethics, building communication culture, crisis communication, and strategies for optimising engagement across traditional and digital media platforms. Meanwhile, drawing from her extensive experience in investigative journalism, Ms Masa Kekana pointed out skills required for effective radio and television interviews.

Ms Kekana further conducted practical

mock interviews for executives to appreciate the significance of being an efficient interviewee without compromising the reputation of institution.

For her part, Director Public Affairs, Dr Faith Rapuleng-Tuelo, underscored the importance of cultivating a robust communication culture within UB to foster sound communication and relations within the institution. She added that the media training initiatives centred around

enhancing the executive management proficiency in media engagement. Furthermore, she indicated that the training was part of an ongoing process of revatilisising the institutions internal and external communications to foster cohesion among stakeholders.



Some members of UB Management listening attentively to the proceedings.

UB Celebrates Nurses Day in TSABONG

Theme: Our Nurses,
Our Future, The
Economic
Power of Care.

As the world celebrated Nurses Day on the 16th of May 2024, the University of Botswana (UB) School of Nursing (formally known as Department of Nursing Education)

also joined in the celebrations in Tsabong. His Honour the Vice President of the Republic of Botswana, Mr Slumber Tsogwane, made

an appearance at the UB stall. The School's commitment to human capital development,

serves as a driving force behind the enhancement of healthcare delivery standards throughout Botswana to ensure optimal quality across the country's healthcare ecosystem. It operates within the organisational structure of the University and derives its educational vision, mission, philosophy and objectives from those of the University of Botswana.

It offers Bachelor of Nursing (BNS) programme which is designed to cater for the needs of both high school students and registered nurses, while the Master of Nursing Science (MNS) programme provides opportunities for students to major in one of the six (6) clinical specialties: Adult Health Nursing, Community Health Nursing, Midwifery, Mental Health Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner and Pediatrics.

His Honour the Vice President, Mr Slumber Tsogwane, was part of the people who visited the University of Botswana School of Nursing stall.



Industry Experts: Molecular Biology Empower UB Students for Academic and Career Excellence



BVI Quality Control Manager, Mr Elliot Mpolokang-Fana.

Industry experts in Molecular Biology from various institutions recently conducted a two-day workshop at the University of Botswana (UB) Conference Centre to enhance the skills and career development of Molecular Biology students UB.

The workshop served as a platform for industry experts in Molecular Biology to exchange experiences, discuss challenges, and highlight successes in their studies while also focusing on career development. Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI), Quality Control Manager, Mr Elliot Mpolokang-Fana shared the BVI mandate.

He mentioned that working for BVI would afford students the opportunity to apply their professional skills in Molecular Biology by conducting tasks such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) diagnostics, characterising FMD outbreaks, merging vaccines, and providing vaccine training on FMD for Sub-Saharan African countries.

Mr. Fana stated that BVI offered student internships to provide valuable real-world

exposure to industry work experience. He also said attached students on internships at BVI that performed well had the opportunity to be employed. He advised the students to remain focused on their studies and perform exceptionally.

Botswana Institute for echnology Research and Innovation (BITRI), Associate Researcher, Mr Kefentse Tumedi, said the graduates had the opportunity to find employment in a various fields including teaching, clinical genetics, bioinformatics, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, private diagnostic laboratories and research institutes.

Mr Tumedi said the skills learned in molecular biology and genetics could be applied to a variety of research areas, including medicine, agriculture and biotechnology. He further stated that molecular biology and genetics were at

the forefront of scientific innovation and discovery. Innolead Executive Chairman, Mr. Oabona Kgengwenyane, advised the students to prioritise happiness in all aspects of their lives to maintain focus and achieve their goals. He underscored that happiness was an internal state of being that relied more on internal focus than external circumstances.

Mr Tumedi highlighted the emotional state of learners played a pivotal role in the effectiveness and efficiency of learning. When learners are happy, their overall learning experience improves significantly, leading to enhanced retention, motivation, and cognitive abilities, he observed.



The workshop attracted a sizeable number of students who were eager to learn about Molecular Biology

Professor Andy Chebanne retires from University of Botswana after an Illustrious Career



Professor Chilisa says the aim is to develop methods rooted in African traditions.

Professor Anderson Chebanne has retired after 40 years working for the University of Botswana (UB). No other linguist in Botswana has delved into the study and publication of Botswana languages as extensively as Andy Chebanne.

Over the past four (4) decades, he has devoted his life to the examination of Setswana, Ikalanga, and diverse Khoisan languages, addressing contentious matters such as language in education and linguistic rights for marginalised communities.

Professor Chebanne has had a profound impact on the domain of language and linguistics in Botswana and Africa at large.

Anderson Chebanne, fondly called Andy, was born on the 21st August 1959 in Nswawzi in the Tutume District. He started

primary school in the same village and then moved to Mater Spei College in Francistown for his Junior and Senior secondary education taking science subjects. He attempted sciences at the University of Botswana and Swaziland (UBS) and then switched to the Humanities. He left for France before finishing his Degree in the Humanities.

In France, he undertook a Licence in Language Sciences, then read for a Master of Arts in Languages Sciences and Pedagogy. In 1987, he pursued an MPhil in Languages Sciences and then proceeded to embark on his Doctorate in Languages Sciences which he completed in 1991. His doctorate supervisor was Denis Creissels with whom he went on to publish a

pioneering book, *Tonal Morphology of the Setswana Verb*.

He was recruited by the University of Botswana in 1983, joining as a Staff Development Fellow (SDF) in French. In 1984 he was promoted to lectureship and appointed a Faculty Tutor the following year, a post he held for two years until 1987. In

1991 after completing his doctoral studies, he returned to being a Faculty Tutor. He was appointed Deputy Dean of Humanities in 1998 after attaining the rank of Senior Lecturer, a post he held until 2004. During his administrative role as a Faculty Tutor and Deputy Dean, he continued to pursue research on the languages of Botswana mainly Setswana, and iKalanga.

UB and Boitekanelo College take Health Services to Kgope

The Health Expo demonstrates support and commitment in the fight against NCDs.

The University of Botswana (UB) in partnership with Boitekanelo College organised a joint Community Health and Wellbeing Expo at Kgope village in Kweneng District. The event supports National Health Service by providing free health checks, information and advice on healthy living to the community. The activities for the event included health screening (Body Mass Index, Blood Pressure, Diabetes and Cholesterol), health education, community health dialogue, consultations, and food hamper donations to the less privileged members of the community as well as children's games.

Giving the welcome remarks, Kgope tribal leader, Kgosi Kgosi Mokgale, expressed gratitude and appreciation to both institutions for providing annual health care services to the Kgope village community. She said organising the annual Health Expo in the village demonstrates support and commitment in the fight against non-communicable diseases (NCDs). She added that Health Care Expos also assisted in bringing health care services closer to the community given shortage of resources at their satellite health post.

UB Acting Head of the Department, Family Medicine and Public Health, Dr Keneilwe Motlathledi, said the event supported the national health services by providing free health checks, information, and advice on healthy living to the community. She said non-communicable diseases were the most common cause of death in the country hence the importance to educate communities to promote prevention. She said education helped prevent the onset of such deadly diseases within communities and in turn minimised the pressure placed on national health services.



Some residents of Kgope Village interacting with UB and Boitekanelo College students. They also received information on NCDs.



Kgosi Kgosi Mokgale appreciating the services brought to her village.

Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Botswana (UB), Mr Dawid Katzke, indicated that issues of climate change require concerted efforts from all sectors of society. Mr Katzke made these remarks when officially opening the Tipping Points Explained by Climate Change (TIPPECC) Stakeholder Engagement Workshop on Climate Change held in Gaborone on the 13th of May 2024.

TIPPECC stands as a significant Euro 2 million multinational research endeavour, focused on climate change information to address regional levels of environmental changes in Southern Africa. The project receives funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) through the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL). SASSCAL is an initiative spearheaded by Botswana, Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Germany, aimed at tackling global climatic challenges.

The TIPPECC project is coordinated by the Global Change Institute at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. It involves, the University of Botswana, University of Zambia, Namibia University of Science and Technology, Friedrich Schiller University (Jena, Germany) and the German Climate Modelling Centre GERICS.

Mr Katzke impressed that from policy makers and academics to community leaders and industry experts, each stakeholder played a pivotal role in shaping a collective response to climate change.

"The University of Botswana as a leading institution of higher learning [in Botswana], is committed to fostering dialogue and collaboration amongst stakeholders, in both the public service and private sector on critical issues such as climate change," said Mr Katzke.

He added that such workshops provided opportunities, for bringing together diverse perspectives, sharing of knowledge and identifying innovative solutions that could drive positive change in the fight against the impacts of climate change.

Tackling Climate Change Requires Concerted Efforts Across All Sectors – Katzke



Mr Dawid Katzke

The University of Botswana is committed to fostering dialogue and collaboration amongst stakeholders in both the public service and private sector on critical issues.

"Over the course of this workshop, I encourage each of you to engage actively, share your expertise and explore opportunities for collaboration," urged the Acting Vice Chancellor.

Mr Katzke further urged participants to utilize the workshop as a platform for collaborative efforts towards a sustainable planet and a promising future for all. He emphasised the importance of leveraging collective action to tackle the challenges presented by climate change.

Meanwhile, TIPPECC identifies levels of environmental change in the Southern African climate and land use system in areas of food and water security as well as biodiversity conservation through co-

production, codevelopment and targeted research. A major focus for TIPPECC comprises of the timing and location of potential crossings of tipping point thresholds in Southern Africa under climate change.

These are then assessed using detailed regional climate projections and knowledge of system dynamics and tolerances. A major outcome of the project will be a climate service web portal which will be developed to provide climate change information and projections of climate change aftermath and adaptation options to a wide range of stakeholders in an accessible and understandable format.

Consequently, as part of its stakeholder engagement programme, TIPPECC Botswana has organised two workshops in Gaborone and Kasane. These bringing together participants from different government departments, multinational organisations and private sector as well as TIPPECC teams from Botswana, South Africa, Namibia and their German partners for climate change responses. ■

UB Career Expo Attracts Various Local Companies to Recruit Students



The University of Botswana (UB) Careers and Counselling Department hosted a Career Expo that attracted various companies looking to recruit students for a variety of career opportunities. The event provided students with the opportunity to learn about internships, part-time jobs, full-time positions, and volunteering opportunities. In addition, organisations participated to boost their visibility on campus, highlighting the benefits of working with them and collecting resumes for future job openings.



UB Professors Launch Setswana Personal Names Dictionary

Two University of Botswana (UB) academics, Professor Thapelo Otlogetswe and Dr Goabilwe Ramaeba, have published "A Dictionary of Setswana Personal Names". According to Professor Otlogetswe, the publication has captured over 8500 Setswana names, which compares favourably with the Oxford Dictionary of First Names that contains approximately 6000 names.

He observed that in hindsight, individuals may discover that their names were not included in the dictionary. However, he indicated that the criteria used for selection were extensive, drawing from a Setswana names database of over a million names. In addition, he explained that the selected names were based on frequency, ranging from the most common to the least common names. As a result, the dictionary includes the top 100 common names.

Professor Otlogetswe said the dictionary was a valuable resource for anyone fascinated by the cultural nuances and significance embedded within names. This was demonstrated by various speakers' humorous interpretations of different names and their meanings across the diverse cultural spectrum and regions in the country.

Meanwhile when giving words of support and encouragement, Professor Shole Shole, a retired professor from University of South Africa (UNISA) and Northwest University, said the dictionary was a very critical and inspirational contribution to linguistic research.

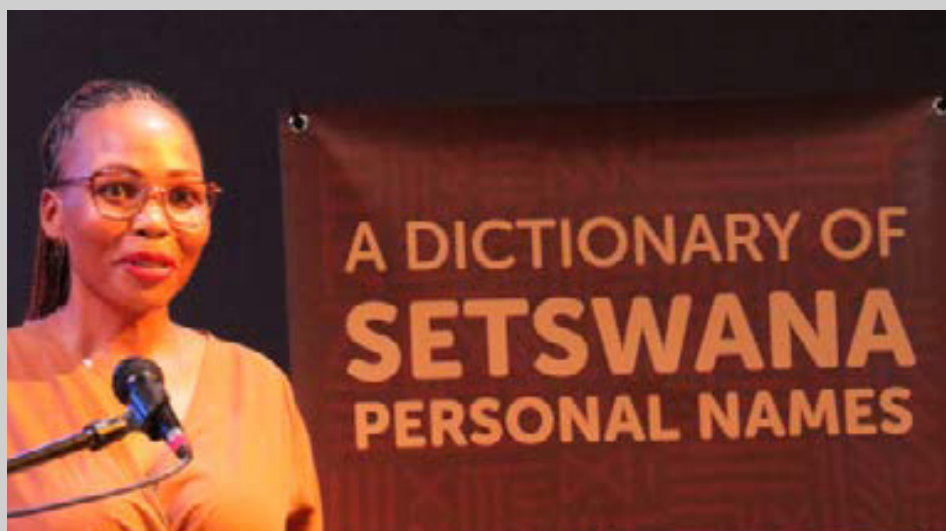


Professor Thapelo Otlogetswe explaining the rationale behind publication of the dictionary.

Professor Shole added that the achievement was not only significant for Botswana but also for SADC countries. He explained that through the dictionary, the authors had introduced Setswana names to the international stage hence paving the way for Setswana names to be used in foreign countries in the near future. Professor Andy Chebanne, retired Professor of linguistics at UB, described the dictionary as well-structured while noting its ability to evoke memories and history for Botswana. He emphasised that the dictionary should

be utilised in dikgotla instead of keeping it hidden away in libraries.

The publication is the culmination of years of research on Setswana personal names at UB and was partly funded by UB's Office of Research and Development (ORD). This underscores the ability of UB lecturers to produce high-quality research works which aligns with the University's strategic goal of becoming a research-intensive institution.



Dr Goabilwe Ramaeba



Kgosi Sabata Ranthoi receiving the project from the UB School of Nursing students.

School of Nursing Students Hand Over Community Health Project

The students developed the project to address key health needs and challenges identified within the community.

University of Botswana (UB) School of Nursing third year students have handed over a waste storage facility to Mokgopeetsane Ward in Molepolole. The students constructed the waste facility as part of their community health project in Molepolole. After conducting an in-depth community health assessment involving

systematic and comprehensive data collection and analysis, the students developed the project to address key health needs and challenges identified within the community. Moreover, the students had been conducting community health nursing in Mokgopeetsane Ward for a period of four (4) months to promote healthy living and create

awareness

about public health issues. Speaking at the ceremony, Mokgopeetsane Acting Chief, Kgosi Sabata Ranthoi appreciated the student's efforts and contribution towards improving the community health situation.

He also encouraged the students to continue contributing positively towards communities and to continue to serve the nation.

Department of Environmental Health, Sanitations representative, Mr Renang Leso appreciated UB students for the donation and encouraged community members to protect it and use it wisely.

UB School of Nursing student, Martha Mashila thanked the community leaders for their support and good working relations during the construction of the project. She also thanked companies such as Jazz Lounge and Builders World for donations of resources and materials used in the construction of the waste storage.



School of Nursing students with Kgope community after handing over the project.

Successful US Entrepreneur Shares Fundamental Principles of Entrepreneurship with Students

Part of being a successful founder is the ability to learn from previous mistakes and have a positive mind.



Part of the audience listening to Mr Burry sharing tips on entrepreneurship.

The United States of America (USA) renowned successful entrepreneur, Mr Chris Burry shared fundamental principles of entrepreneurship with University of Botswana (UB) students and local entrepreneurs at the UB Innovation Centre recently.

Mr Burry is a multi-billionaire and serial entrepreneur with extensive global experience. He has played a pivotal role in founding eight companies and has worked in over 30 countries. In 2010, he began focusing on imparting the lessons of Silicon Valley to entrepreneurs worldwide. He is the Co-Founder of the US Market Access Centre (USMAC) and the A3 Global Collider. Through USMAC, Mr Burry has trained and mentored more than 1,000 start-ups from over 25 countries. Additionally, he was part of the founding team of Avanade, a joint venture between Accenture and Microsoft. Mr Burry also serves as an Industry Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley's Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Burry said Berkeley's University in California is the largest public research-intensive university in USA with 40 000 students. He said Berkeley's University also has an Entrepreneurship

Centre that educated about 1000 students a year on Fundamentals Principles of Entrepreneurship.

He observed that the odds of being a successful start-up founder were quite slim, with data that was not entirely conclusive. According to him, the likelihood of success for a first-time start-up founder was around one percent. However, by the fifth venture, the odds improve to roughly 50/50. By the eighth start-up, the chances of success increase to 80 percent.

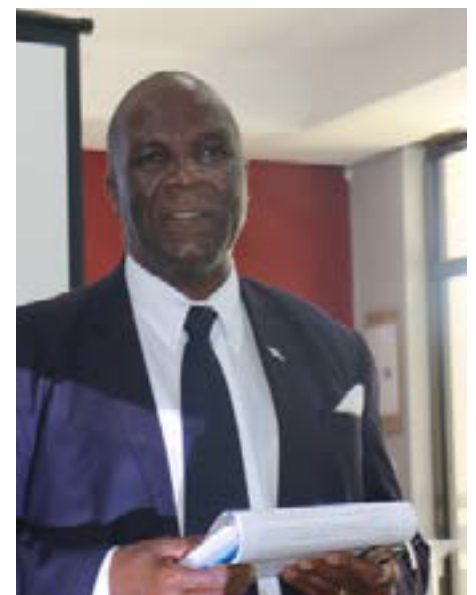
Mr Burry highlighted that part of being a successful founder was the ability to learn from previous mistakes and have a positive mind. He said being a start-up founder was tough and depressing as well. He also said being a founder was the best job in the world because they have an opportunity to change the world. In addition, Mr Burry said he travelled the world and shared entrepreneurship education with start-up founders to develop a strong mind set as well as to transfer knowledge.

He further encouraged students and entrepreneurs to develop mental fortitude and openness to learning. He said entrepreneurship was a skills-based activity that needed practice under mentors that understood it and have leadership skills. He said some businesses were not globally

competitive because of duplication of what already existed in the market. He advised the students to take advantage of new technologies to access global markets.

Mr Burry encouraged students to be open to new ideas, embrace change and to adjust business strategies as necessary. He said a founder must adapt quickly to changing market conditions and technological advancements. He added that start-up founders must be visionary, make long term goals as well as inspire others to rally behind their visions. He further encouraged start-up business founders to have a strong work ethic to drive business forward. For his part, the University of Botswana, Faculty of Engineering and Technology,

Deputy Dean, Dr Olefile Molwane said the UB Innovation Centre was committed to turning creative ideas into viable solutions. He said the workshop offered a great opportunity for students and entrepreneurs to gain insights from a renowned successful entrepreneur with worthy knowledge and experience in business as well as assisting small business start-ups to succeed.



Dr Olefile Molwane



Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Hosts World Theatre Day 2024

Dr Thulaganyo Mogobe

The University of Botswana (UB) Department of Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) hosted its annual World Theatre Day to showcase its visual arts and performance.

The event featured various performances by VAPA students and UB alumni, including musicals, monologues, play readings, poetry and storytelling. Further, the event featured reading of the World Theatre Day message by Jon Fosse in English, French, Sekgalagadi, and Setswana. Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Fidelis Nkomazana, underscored

the celebration of arts as an integral part of tradition, culture, and communal experience.

Professor Nkomazana highlighted World Theatre Day as a platform for showcasing the value of arts and Culture.

Creative and Cultural Development Manager at the National Arts Council of Botswana (NACB), Mr Tshireletso Modikwa, commended UB's efforts in nurturing Botswana's talent and producing top-tier creatives.

Mr Modikwa noted the significant contribution of theatre, performing arts, culture, and crafts to national

development and the socio-economic fabric of Botswana. He also outlined NACB's mandate to promote the arts in Botswana and urged artists to collaborate and engage with the Council. In closing the event, VAPA Coordinator and Lecturer, Dr. Thulaganyo Mogobe, expressed gratitude to UB students for their exceptional performances, planning, and coordination of the commemoration. Dr Mogobe highlighted the importance of continued support from UB and various stakeholders in fostering talent development and growth within the arts community.



One of the VAPA students delivering a performance to celebrate World Theatre Day.



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WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA CONTEMPORARY SAN ART EXHIBITION

This exhibition showcases some of the finest prints and paintings by a group of San artists, selected from the University's collection. The artists represented here are familiar with the ancestral heritage of rock paintings and illustrations across the country on cave interiors, including various archaeological artifacts. A wealth of artistic skill that communicates the San peoples' interaction with the flora and fauna has been well preserved, and obviously well studied. The interaction with the ancestral pictorial heritage provides a solid background to the beautiful, contemporary, artistic interpretations by the artists.

The narrative of the life experience of the San in their environment, their source of life; the animals and the plants they encounter in their surroundings is undeniable on the present exhibits. But most interesting is the modernist, expressive, sometimes near abstract handling of the subject matter that shows the progressive approach of the contemporary San art.

Most if not all artists represented here have attended international workshops and participated in various exhibitions. Some of the local workshops such as Thapong International Artists workshop emanated from Triangle Workshops in the US which gave birth to the local Thapong arts experience. They have exhibited locally and abroad, in countries including the US, England, France and other centers across Europe.



Forbes Under 30 Africa Summit Global Entrepreneurs & Investors Impart Knowledge and Skills to Students

The Forbes Under 30 Africa Summit convened at the University of Botswana (UB) on the 7th May 2024, bringing international entrepreneurs and investors to share entrepreneurship knowledge and skills with students and established entrepreneurs in Botswana. The event took place at the Visual and Performing Arts Courtyard.

This was part of Forbes Under 30 Summit Community Service Project. The sessions comprised several projects, such as the Entrepreneurial Solve-A-Thon, Increase Africa Skill-A-Thon, Youth Impact EdTech Hack-A-Thon, and Arts A-Thon. These sessions were meant to stimulate discussions and share insights on entrepreneurial challenges, obstacles as well as experiences.

Giving welcome remarks, Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Botswana, Mr Dawid Katzke, highlighted UB's initiative in establishing an Innovation Centre on campus to cultivate entrepreneurial skills. He also extended his gratitude to the global entrepreneurs and investors for their significant presence, emphasising their contribution towards creating a positive impact in Botswana. He also expressed his gratitude and appreciation towards global entrepreneurs and investors for honouring the event in large numbers. He said collaborations such as these will help students benefit greatly from international offerings. He said Forbes 30 also created a platform critical to fostering cross-sectoral entrepreneurship dialogues, knowledge exchange and joint action in advancing knowledge.

UB Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Teaching and Learning, Professor Richard Tabulawa, expressed his appreciation to Forbes participants and the intervention brought by Forbes to the youth challenges as it cuts across many sectors of the economy. He also encouraged the students to take advantage of the opportunities brought by the summit.

Professor Tabulawa encouraged the youth to take advantage of the opportunities brought by the Forbes Summit.



Unveil New Kitn by Elite Physiotherapy & Major Muscle and Fitness



University of Botswana (UB) Rhinos Rugby Club unveiled new kits for both its men's and women's teams at the UB Indoor Sports Arena on 19th April 2024. Elite Physiotherapy Clinic has sponsored the men's kit while Major Muscle and Fitness sponsored the women's team kit.

Acting Director, Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation, Dr Comfort Mokgothu, expressed gratitude to the sponsors during a short ceremony held at the UB Campus Indoor Sports Centre. Dr Mokgothu emphasised the importance of local companies' commitment to promoting social responsibility and sports development at UB and in Botswana. He highlighted the positive impact of the sponsorship on sports athletes and the University as a whole, encouraging continued collaboration between the sponsors and the club.

UB Rhinos Rugby Club Coach, Mr Mooketsi Ramakele, gave an overview of the team's history, noting its establishment in 1997. He praised the team's current performance and thanked the sponsors for their support in promoting sports. Mr Ramakele observed that by supporting the team, the sponsors were also promoting positive values associated with UB. He underlined UB Rhinos' role in fostering the growth of rugby in the country and its contribution to player recruitment. University of Botswana (UB) Rhinos Rugby Club unveiled new kits for both its men's and women's teams at the UB Indoor Sports Arena on 19th April 2024. Elite Physiotherapy Clinic has sponsored the men's kit while Major Muscle and Fitness

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Red Raptors & Cobalt Renegades are Fastbreak Friday Basketball Champs

Red Raptors and Cobalt Renegades emerged victorious in a thrilling Fastbreak Friday Basketball (FBF) Championship finale held at the University of Botswana High Performance Centre (UBHPC) on 14th April 2024. Sponsored by the Department of Culture, Sports, and Recreation, the event aimed at promoting basketball in Botswana and fostering a competitive spirit.

In the Women's 2024 FBF Championship, Cobalt Renegades secured a resounding victory over Ruby Rascal with a 19-point lead, clinching the title with a final score of 46-27. The Men's tournament saw intense showdowns, with Yellow Rangers and Red Raptors battling their way to the finals.

Yellow Rangers launched a remarkable comeback against White Rovers in the semi-finals, securing their spot in the finals while Red Raptors proceeded after defeating Blue Raiders.

In the Men's 2024 FBF Championship Final, Red Raptors triumphed over Yellow Rangers in a nail-biting finish, securing a 39-35 victory at the final buzzer.

Botho Modutlwe of Cobalt Renegades was awarded the Most Valuable Player in the women's tournament while Phenyo Tsheko of Red Raptors earned the Men's Most Valuable Player accolade for his exceptional performance.



UB Karate team proceeds to the final Leg of the BOKA Senior national team selection

Ten University of Botswana (UB) Karatekas demonstrated remarkable skill, competing against top athletes during a karate tournament hosted at the Botswana Karate Association (BOKA) Hall recently. The athletes were vying for selection into the Senior National Karate Team.

Five (5) of the ten UB karatekas returned home with medals from the tournament. Charity Direnge secured a Silver Medal in the Women's 50kg category, while Matla Moremedi earned Silver in the women's 68kg category.

In the Men's Division, Otsile Philemon Mabaka claimed second place in the Men's 67kg category while Tumiso Otshepheng Mongwaketsi secured third place due to a disqualification during the match. Kagiso Gotsileene clinched third position in the 84kg category. The UB team is now preparing for the third and final leg of the BOKA national team selections.



BASCO Boys

...notch historic Orange Cup milestone

Despite the setback of University of Botswana (UB) Hawks Football Club by Premier League giants Jwaneng Galaxy on Saturday 11th May 2024 at the National Stadium, UB Hawks will go down in history books as the only First Division South League underdogs to reach Orange FA Cup Season 5 semi-finals.

UB Hawks was the only remaining First Division South League team against Premier League teams including Tafic, Orapa United, and Jwaneng Galaxy. Hawks and Tafic FC's journey in the Orange FA Cup will be awarded prize money worth P160,000.00 for making it to top four, second position will receive P440,000.00 while champions of the tournament will receive P880,000.00.

Meanwhile, UB Hawks is sitting at position six (6) with 26 points in First Division South League log standings and is fighting

to remain in top eight to be eligible for Orange FA Cup 2025 - 2026. Reflecting on UB Hawks' performance against Jwaneng Galaxy, Hawks worked under pressure in both the first and second half of the match as Jwaneng Galaxy dominated with numerous counter attacks and pressed from every direction but was difficult for them to penetrate Hawks' defence line. In the first 70 minutes of the game, Hawks adopted a defensive style of play which worked in their favour as they kept the score line at nil-nil.

Jwaneng Galaxy effectively controlled the center and defense but faced challenges in the forward line, struggling to execute finishing moves against the Hawks' resilient defense. It wasn't until the 72nd minute that Jwaneng Galaxy secured the winning goal with a deflected shot slipping past the Hawks' defender Hawks attackers

Thabiso Fani and Thatayaone Nkwapa missed golden chances in the first 35 minutes of the game that they could have capitalised on to open the leading score. The two strikers had a fantastic game against Jwaneng Galaxy and continued to threaten ival defence.

In addition, Hawks captain and defender Bonno Sepako also demonstrated high quality defensive skills and performance from centre back going forward to assist in putting more pressure as well creating chances. In addition Hawks left wing back Katlego Koobake was very aggressive and pressing hard, delivering brilliant cross and moving back to assist the defensive line. Hawks striker Silent Kenneth also displayed a brilliant play throughout the entire match. In terms of strength both teams were equal and adopted fast pace match.



BYU Ballroom Dance Company Show Comes Alive At UB



The Brigham Young University (BYU) Ballroom Dance Company from Provo, Utah, United States of America recently presented an electrifying show at the University of Botswana (UB) Campus Indoor Sports Centre. The group captivated the audience with their performances, showcasing unparalleled energy, elegance and expression throughout the night. With flawless timing and incredible techniques, the Ballroom Dance Company consistently delivered picture-perfect performances. The BYU Dance programme includes the Ballroom Dance Company, Contemporary Dance Theatre, International Folk Dance Ensemble, Living Legends and Theatre Ballet. The Ballroom Dance Company is one of BYU's six (6) mainstage performing groups and is recognised nationally and internationally as one of the top university dance ensembles. The group comprising talented students and faculty, works tirelessly to maintain its award-winning reputation. ■





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Direct enquiries and contributions to:

The Editor, UB Newsletter, Tel: +267 3555645, e-mail: publicaffairs@ub.ac.bw