



## UB Reaffirms Its Role in Shaping Botswana's Tourism Future

» Uses occasion to reaffirm commitment to national development through education, research and strategic partnerships



President Advocate Duma Boko Sharing a light moment with ORI Director Professor Mbaiwa and Director Public Affairs Dr Faith Rapuleng-Tuelo at the Stall, HATAB Conference

University of Botswana (UB) has reaffirmed its instrumental role in the growth and sustainability of Botswana's tourism industry through its participation at the 2025 Hospitality and Tourism Association of Botswana (HATAB) Annual Conference that was held in Maun.

UB's participation underscored its strategic importance as a national institution committed to producing skilled professionals, conducting cutting-edge research and fostering policy-relevant partnerships that support the long-term development of the tourism sector. The

event, which also marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HATAB, was held under the theme "Botswana Tourism: Exploring the Conditions for Growth." The conference was officially opened by His Excellency, President Advocate Duma Boko,

continues to page 3



### Page 4

Tourism Students Handover  
Upgraded MmaSechele Heritage  
Site



### Page 7

Environmental Health Students  
Donate P8 800 to Botswana  
Diabetic Society Children's  
Camp



### Page 10

UB and Judiciary Forge Partnership to  
Boost Judicial Training





## EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the April edition of the University of Botswana (UB) Newsletter.

This month's newsletter serves as a demonstration to the University of Botswana's unwavering commitment to national development through education, research and community engagement. The stories featured illustrate how UB continues to shape Botswana's future, not just through academic excellence but through real-world impact.

Tourism and Hospitality students made history by handing over an upgraded MmaSechele Heritage Site, with calls for its recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a powerful gesture in preserving and promoting our cultural heritage. The call for the site's consideration for UNESCO World Heritage status signals UB's intent to elevate Botswana's historical assets to global recognition.

At the same time, Nursing students led a bold anti-drug awareness campaign in Taung, responding to research that reveals a worrying rise in youth drug use, driven by peer pressure and the search for acceptance.

The launch of the Future Entrepreneur initiative by the Business Clinic is another milestone,

arming young innovators with practical skills and stronger industry ties to drive Botswana's economic transformation. Meanwhile, Environmental Health students demonstrated the power of community-centred learning by donating P8 800 to the Botswana Diabetic Society's children's camp.

We also celebrate key leadership and research breakthroughs. The appointment of Dr Daniel Tau as Chairperson of the UB Council comes at a critical moment, a timely leadership shift that comes as UB scales new heights in governance and strategic repositioning. On the other hand, Dr Thabo Seleke's groundbreaking research on non-communicable diseases is reshaping national health policy conversations.

Together, these stories show UB as a space where learning meets leadership and where knowledge serves both people and progress.

Warm regards,

**Thomas T. Nkhoma**

## Highlights...



### Business Clinic Launches Future Entrepreneurs

#### CONTRIBUTORS:

Dr Faith Rapuleng-Tuelo  
Phillip Oabona  
Setshwano Moaisi  
Lone Tlhomamo  
Topo Bokete

#### LAYOUT AND DESIGN:

UB Publications

#### PRODUCTION:

University of Botswana  
Department of Public Affairs





# BRAND VALUES

- PROFESSIONALISM
- EQUITY AND DIVERSITY
- ACCOUNTABILITY
- CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION
- BOTHO

## UB Role in Tourism....Continued from page 1



Ms Mareledi Mokakangwe with Peter at the UB stall

Duma Boko, who underscored the critical role that tourism plays in Botswana's economic transformation.

Over 250 participants from government, private sector, academia and civic organisations took part during the conference and deliberate on critical issues shaping Botswana's tourism landscape. The discussions aimed at exploring innovative strategies for destination development, promotion, investment and sustainability.

President Boko addressed the gathering with a strong call to action while emphasising the need to address infrastructural shortcomings that continue to hinder growth in the sector. He highlighted the potential of tourism to rival or even surpass diamonds in its contribution to national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) if it was managed strategically and with foresight. The President also welcomed the recent introduction of new international flight routes, citing them as key enablers of Botswana's ambition to become

a premier destination for tourism and investment.

Delivering the keynote address, the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Boipuso Mmolotsi, shared recent data reflecting the sector's recovery and growth trajectory. According to the Minister, Botswana experienced an 18 percent

increase in international arrivals between 2024 and 2025. Hon Mmolotsi further pointed to the Botswana Tourism Industry Outlook 2024–2028 which projects a rise in tourism revenue from approximately US\$334 million in 2023 to an estimated US\$399 million by 2028 with an average annual growth rate of 2.8 percent. This steady growth, he said, underscored the resilience and potential of the industry when aligned with targeted policy and investment.

Stakeholders engaged in wide-ranging discussions, covering emerging trends, innovations and the challenges facing the tourism sector. The dialogue reflected a shared commitment to exploring sustainable growth models that integrate tourism into the broader national development agenda. From the implications of Botswana's evolving economic landscape to the need for diversification of tourism products and stronger linkages with other sectors, participants explored how

Botswana could reposition itself within a competitive global tourism market.

The conference also examined the effectiveness of current tourism strategies, the importance of community participation and the transformative role of digital technologies in enhancing the visitor experience and expanding market reach. Investment opportunities, aviation connectivity, infrastructure development and the role of culture and heritage in destination branding also formed part of the robust exchanges that took place throughout the day.

The University of Botswana used the occasion to reaffirm its commitment to national development through education, research, Innovation and strategic partnerships. UB showcased its contribution to the tourism sector through its tourism and hospitality management programmes which have produced skilled graduates ready to serve in both the public and private sectors.

The University also highlighted its ongoing research initiatives that provide evidence-based solutions to pressing industry challenges including sustainability and economic impact. In its engagement with stakeholders, UB emphasised its role in supporting tourism policy formulation and strategic planning through expert analysis and collaborative projects with local and international partners.

# Tourism Students Handover Upgraded MmaSechele Heritage Site

» Calls for site to be considered for international recognition through UNESCO



The Tourism Students who handed over the upgraded MmaSechele Heritage site.

Final-year students from the University of Botswana's (UB) Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management (DTHM) officially handed over a revamped MmaSechele Heritage to the Manyana Village Development Trust in a gesture of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) aimed at safeguarding and preserving cultural heritage. The ceremony took place at the historic Manyana Rock Paintings site on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2025. As part of their CSR initiative, 21 Level 400 students raised P19 000 to upgrade the heritage

site. The funds were used to install a 5000-litre water tank with metal stands, solar-powered lights and poles to improve infrastructure at the site.

Speaking at the event, Kgosi Arnold Mangope, representing Kgosi Kebinatshwene Mosielele of Bahurutshe, expressed gratitude to the students for selecting the MmaSechele Heritage Site as their project beneficiary. He emphasised the importance of preserving historical landmarks as vital links to Botswana's cultural past and potential tourism attractions.

Student representative, Ms Gaone Kehakgametse, highlighted that the project was inspired by UB's "Motho le Motho Kgomo" Motto which promotes community engagement and self-reliance. She noted that the initiative brought together key stakeholders including the Department of National Museum and Monuments and Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) in a shared mission to protect the site for future generations.

continues to page 7



# School of Nursing Students Lead Anti-Drug Awareness Campaign in Taung

» Research reveals an alarming rise in drug use among young people, often driven by peer pressure and search for social acceptance

As part of their Community and School Health Project, a group of 14 third-year University of Botswana (UB) School of Nursing students spearheaded an Anti-Drug Awareness Day at Taung Junior Secondary School, themed "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life." The initiative targeted the growing concern of drug and substance abuse among the youth in the Taung community.

Welcoming the students, Taung Junior Secondary School Head, Ms Kealeboga Thipe, commended the project, describing it as timely and crucial. She noted that research had revealed an alarming rise in drug use among young people, often driven by peer pressure and the search for social acceptance. Ms Thipe expressed deep appreciation to the UB students for their commitment to addressing one of the community's most thorny health challenges.

Presenting the objectives of the Community Health-Based Project, third-year nursing student, Ms Naomi Modubane, explained that their mandate was to identify key health issues within the community and school and develop practical interventions. "Through our research, we found that drug abuse has become a significant health concern among youth," she said. "Thus, we organised the Anti-Drug Day and



The nursing Students who spearheaded the anti-drug awareness Campaign.

erected a billboard within the school to serve as a daily reminder: 'Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life.' Ms Modubane emphasised that the project aimed not only at raising awareness but also to propose sustainable preventative measures. Guest speaker, Mr Green Thabiwa, a Psychiatric Nurse from Otse Clinic, warned of the dangerous link between substance abuse and the deterioration of mental health. Highlighting the vulnerability of developing brains, Mr Thabiwa urged students to avoid illicit substances to safeguard their future. "Mental health is essential to your daily functioning," he said. "A disturbance at your age can have lifelong effects."

Adding a peer voice to the campaign, UB Nursing Student, Mr Benny Letlamma, encouraged students to reject drug use and take collective responsibility for creating a drug-free environment. "It takes a community effort to raise a drug-free generation," he said. "We must hold ourselves and each other accountable." The Anti-Drug Awareness Day not only informed students about the risks of substance abuse but also inspired a renewed sense of community engagement and shared responsibility in the fight against drugs.



The signboard the students erected to boost the Campaign.

# Business Clinic Launches Future Entrepreneurs

» *Equips young aspiring entrepreneurs with practical skills to drive innovation, strengthen industry linkages*



Ms Godiraone Goaletsa – Enterprise Development Specialist



The Students Displaying their Certificates after graduation

University of Botswana (UB) Business Clinic has taken a major step to bridge the gap between academic learning and business practice by successfully graduating its first cohort under the 2025 Entrepreneurship Development Programme. The initiative, launched on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2025, equips young aspiring entrepreneurs with practical skills to drive innovation, strengthen industry linkages and foster business-ready graduates. Over an intensive eight-week mentorship, students were divided into two (2) streams – an Acceleration Programme for those with existing businesses and a Start-Up Development Programme for those launching new ideas. Top achievers from each stream were awarded during the graduation ceremony to recognise

their business potential and market readiness. In the Acceleration Programme, Mr Tumo Mathiba clinched first position followed by Mr Kgosi Morwaagole in second place and Ms Tshegofatso Thake in third. Meanwhile, in the Start-Up Development Programme, Ms Ntshiwa Otshegeditse emerged top with Ms Naledi Mokgagane and Ms Bogadi Setswakae taking second and third places respectively. Speaking at the event, Enterprise Development Specialist and panel judge, Ms Godiraone Goaletsa, stressed the importance of rigorous market research, advising participants to critically assess the need and viability of their products and services. “Is your product market-worthy? Can people live without it? Is there a real demand?” she challenged the budding

entrepreneurs.

Mentors also shared key advice with the students. Phatsima Tutions Executive Director, Mr Victor Halton Mmualefe, encouraged them to dream big but more importantly, to start small and build consistently. Agronardo Managing Director, Mr Puisano Ramosobatha, urged the students to embrace continuous learning as a cornerstone for growth and development. Coordinator of the Business Clinic and UB Lecturer, Ms Onneetse Ndadi, applauded the graduates for their resilience and innovation, encouraging them to actively seek out opportunities, innovation hubs and platforms that will support the growth of their ventures.



# Environmental Health Students Donate P8 800 to Botswana Diabetic Society Children's Camp

» *Donation underscores young people's ability to transform academic pursuits into meaningful community contributions*



Coach Ofentse Sethibe Leads participants through an Energising session at the 14<sup>th</sup> Mini Health Fair.

Second year University of Botswana (UB) Environmental Health Students have donated P8 800 to the Diabetes Association of Botswana to support the Children's camp. The funds were handed over at the UB's 14<sup>th</sup> "Mini" Health Fair held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2025, under The theme, "My Mind, Body and Environment, the triad of health".

Dr Gontle Moleele, a Physician, Endocrinologist, and Hospital Superintendent at Bokamoso Private Hospital as well as Chairperson of the Diabetes Association of Botswana, commended the ongoing collaboration between the UB's Department of Environmental Health and the Botswana Diabetes Association. Speaking at the event, Dr Moleele highlighted the significant impact of this partnership, noting that it had been instrumental in supporting over 100 children through the diabetes camp, providing them with critical education, care and empowerment.

Dr Moleele remarked that the donation underscored the ability of young people to

transform academic pursuits into meaningful community contributions. He added that their support not only enhanced their overall initiatives but also demonstrated the potential of institutions such as UB to lead in addressing health challenges.

## Tourism Students...Continued from Page 4

Botswana Tourism Organisation's (BTO) Tourism Development Manager, Mr John Kenalemang, praised the initiative as a reflection of UB's commitment to community engagement. He said collaboration between UB DTHM students, Manyana Village and national heritage institutions exemplified meaningful partnerships that uplifted local communities. Director of the Department of National Museum and Monuments, Mr Vasco Baitseseng, stressed the strategic importance of heritage conservation in diversifying Botswana's tourism sector. He called for more sites like Manyana to be considered for international recognition

Event's coordinator and Head of School Public Health, Professor Bontle Mbongwe, highlighted the dual purpose of the health fair as both a platform for student learning and community engagement. She noted that the event aligned with the assessment requirements for the (Environmental Health) ENH 221 course, wherein students were expected to create public health messages through poster presentations to address pressing health concerns.

"The event is a reflection of the calibre of students UB produces," Professor Mbongwe stated. "It not only demonstrates their academic knowledge but also their commitment to solving real-world challenges."

The health fair kicked off with a 5km walk led by the Senior Athletics Club for Recreation, a group of senior citizens devoted to improving their health through physical fitness. Also, health practitioners and organisations showcased their products and services to the participants.

through UNESCO, citing the potential to boost tourism and create employment at the community level. He commended the students for their dedication to heritage preservation. Closing the event, UB lecturer, Dr Brighton Hurombo, thanked dignitaries and stakeholders for their support, reaffirming that such student-led initiatives had a lasting impact on both heritage preservation and community development. He hinted at more similar projects to come as the University deepened its commitment to societal transformation through education.

# Dr Daniel Tau Appointed Chairperson of the UB Council

» Expresses optimism about making meaningful contributions to the institution

The Minister of Higher Education, Honourable Prince Maele, officially announced the appointment of Dr Daniel Tau as the new Chairperson of the University of Botswana (UB) Council, effective 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Dr. Tau takes over from Mr. Lokwalo Mosienyane, who had been serving as Interim Chairperson of the Council for the past two years.

Speaking at the announcement ceremony held at UB, Honourable Maele underscored the critical role of the Council Chairperson in advancing research and development. He noted that the areas were essential for the University's sustainability and growth, aligning it with the standards of leading academic institutions globally.

Dr Tau for his part expressed gratitude for being entrusted with the governance role at the University. He expressed optimism about making meaningful contributions to the institution which he acknowledged was the largest and most complex academic entity in the country. He observed that effective governance required collective responsibility and support from senior management and the broader university community.

Meanwhile the UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, echoed the same sentiments, noting that Dr Tau's appointment came at a



UB Vice Chancellor Prof David Norris gifting the Newly appointed Chairperson of council Dr Daniel Tau.

pivotal time when the University of Botswana was undergoing a transformation into a High-Performance Organisation (HPO). He reaffirmed the University's commitment to establishing an efficient and effective structure of excellence that served as a model for the nation and other institutions.

Dr Tau is a distinguished academic and seasoned administrator with a wealth of experience in higher education. He previously served as Vice Chancellor of the Botswana Open

University (BOU) and has held several senior leadership roles across the education sector. His appointment brings a wealth of expertise in institutional governance, strategic planning and educational innovation. Dr Tau's extensive knowledge and experience are expected to bring substantial value to the University Council as it fulfills its statutory mandate of providing strategic direction, shaping policy and exercising oversight over the University of Botswana.



# Assistant Minister Mophuting and Students Walk to “Say No to Alcohol and Substance Abuse”

» We gather not only to raise awareness but to take a stand against the destructive impact of alcohol and substance abuse



Morula Primary School Students partake in the March to say NO to Alcohol and Substance Abuse walk

Assistant Minister Mophuting Highlights the Importance of the walk against alcohol and substance abuse

University of Botswana (UB) School of Nursing students in collaboration with Morula Primary School in Block 6, Gaborone, organised a vibrant health walk on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2025, under the theme “Say No to Alcohol and Substance Abuse.”

The event brought together a spirited assembly of students, educators and community

members, all united by a common purpose – to raise awareness about the devastating effects of alcohol and substance abuse. Through their collective energy and commitment, the participants sent a powerful message of hope, resilience and the importance of making healthy life choices.

During the event, Counselor Mmalethare

delivered heartfelt welcome remarks, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in the fight against substance abuse. “Today, we stand together, not just as individuals but as a united community committed to making a difference. Substance

continues to page 11

# New Pharmacy Students Advised to Commit to the Code of Ethics

» Ceremony marks beginning of professional journey and seriousness of professionalism



A Pharmacy Student robbed during the white coat Ceremony.

Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health Science, Dr Margaret Mokomane, has advised new pharmacy students to commit to their code of ethics by treating all patients with respect and build trust while maintaining professional boundaries.

Dr Mokomane made the remarks during the School of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony held under the theme: "Upholding the culture of excellence in pharmacy practice in these changing times". She further advised the students to prioritise professionalism, empathy and commitment, excellence and compassion when dealing with patients. She said students should demonstrate a commitment to maintaining accurate records, inventory management and provide efficient and courteous customer service.

Dr Mokomane said the ceremony symbolised the beginning of professional journey and demonstrated seriousness of professionalism. She said the ceremony was an encouragement for psychological contract for their professionalism and empathy in the practice of pharmacy.

Delivering the keynote address, Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital Pharmacy Manager, Mr John Gobotswanag, urged students to seize emerging business and employment opportunities brought about by the government's introduction of industrial hemp into the pharmaceutical sector. He also commended the School of Pharmacy for its notable growth and maturity over the years. Furthermore, Mr Gobotswanag encouraged the School to consider increasing the enrolment of

## UB and Judiciary Forge Partnership to Boost Judicial Training

» Without properly trained judicial officers, success of commercial court could be compromised

The University of Botswana (UB) and the judiciary explored a partnership aimed at enhancing the training and professional development of judicial officers with a particular emphasis on legal ethics and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). This follows a meeting between UB management and the Chief Justice, Justice Gaolapelwe Ketlogetswe, as well as various stakeholders from the judiciary including the Law Society of Botswana (LSB), Office of the Chief Registrar and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services. The UB team was led by the Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris.

During the meeting, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2025 at UB, there was recognition of the growing need for specialised training in legal ethics and ADR within the country's judicial system. Justice Ketlogetswe lamented that a shortage of trained professionals in ADR and legal ethics was contributing to delays in the court system. He underscored the importance of equipping judicial officers with the necessary skills to effectively manage and resolve disputes. "We approached UB to discuss the possibility of collaborating on the development of short courses and programmes designed to enhance the skills of judicial officers in these critical areas," Justice Ketlogetswe remarked. "The shortage of professional arbitrators in the country, coupled with the backlog of cases in

continues to page 11

continues to page 12





Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice and correctional services (Left), Mr Moffat Lubinda with Court of Appeal, Judge, Justice Ranier Busang and Justices Ookeditse Maphakwane taking part in the Proceedings.

the courts, is a challenge we must address."

The Chief Justice also expressed concerns about the establishment of a commercial court in Botswana. He explained that without properly trained judicial officers, the success of the commercial court could be compromised. He called for the development of homegrown programmes in legal ethics and ADR at UB to provide the judiciary with the local expertise needed to strengthen the country's justice system.

Justice Ketlogetswe also highlighted the financial barriers that many Batswana faced when seeking justice, further exacerbating delays in dispute resolution. He proposed the creation of a government-funded ADR system that could complement the traditional court system to enable judicial officers to resolve disputes efficiently while maintaining social harmony.

Justice Ookeditse Maphakwane, a Judge of the High Court, echoed the Chief Justice's concerns, stressing that the country's commercial court would face significant operational challenges without more trained arbitrators. With only 10 Certified Arbitrators in Botswana, he warned that the country might be forced to rely on foreign experts to fill this gap.

At the meeting, the Head of the Department of Law, Dr Jimcall Pfumorodze, acknowledged

that while the University currently offered ADR programmes at Master's level and legal ethics at undergraduate level under a different name, there was a clear need to strengthen and expand these offerings. Both Acting Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Tachilisa Balule and Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, agreed that incorporating ADR and legal ethics into the undergraduate curriculum was crucial.

"It is essential that we equip students not only with theoretical knowledge but also with practical experience," said Professor Norris, underlining the need for collaboration between UB and the judiciary.

Both Professors Norris and Balule appealed to the judiciary to partner with UB by offering guest lectures and presiding over moot court sessions to provide students with practical exposure to the judicial process. The initiative, they suggested, would bridge the gap between academic learning and the real-world application of law.

Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Professor Richard Tabulawa, also supported the call for more hands-on experience. "It is not enough for students to be taught in a classroom, they need to experience the real world of legal practice," he said, urging increased interaction with practicing professionals.

The meeting also explored the possibility of establishing a School of Law at UB which would provide a more focused and specialised approach to legal education. Such a school would not only improve the student-to-lecturer ratio but also offer a deeper commitment to professional development in the legal field.

#### Say No to Alcohol ...Continued from Page 9

abuse is a growing challenge particularly among our youth and it is crucial that we take proactive steps to protect their future," said Ms Mmaethare, adding "I commend the University of Botswana School of Nursing students for partnering with us today and for taking a stand in the fight against alcohol and substance abuse. Together, we can make a lasting impact and create a healthier, brighter future for all."

Delivering the keynote address, Assistant Minister for State President, Ms Maipelo Mophuting, delivered a strong message of hope and responsibility. "Today, we gather not only to raise awareness but to take a stand against the destructive impact of alcohol and substance abuse on our communities," she observed.

Ms Mophuting who is also MP for Gaborone Bonnington North, added that as leaders, parents and role models, it was their duty to safeguard the well-being of our youth to ensure they had the opportunity to thrive in a world free from the shackles of addiction.

She emphasised that substance abuse was not just an individual issue but a societal challenge that affected families, schools and entire communities. "Together, we have the power to create an environment where our children can grow, learn and succeed without the dangers of alcohol or drugs clouding their future," she said. Ms Mophuting further highlighted the importance of continued collaboration between the Government, educational institutions and community organisations in tackling the root causes of substance abuse.

# UB and BHPCA Join Forces to Promote Community Palliative Care

» *Care designed to enhance quality of life for patients and family support*

The University of Botswana (UB) School of Nursing through the Oncology and Palliative Care Programme in collaboration with the Botswana Hospice and Palliative Care Association (BHPCA), recently hosted a sensitisation seminar on community-based palliative care. The seminar targeted students, cancer patients, and their caregivers, with the aim of building capacity and garnering support for the initiative.

A lecturer at the School of Nursing, Dr Miriam Sebego, highlighted that the sensitisation meeting was part of BHPCA's advocacy efforts within the community. She emphasised that the meetings provided a platform for sharing experiences which in turn helped improve palliative care practices.

Dr Norman Carl Swart, an Adult-Gerontology Oncology and Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner and Family Nurse Practitioner at UB, discussed

the challenges faced in delivering palliative care to communities. He pointed out that a lack of knowledge and resources hampered efforts and underlined the importance of interventions from various institutions to bridge those gaps. Palliative care is designed to enhance the quality of life for patients and support their families when dealing with life-threatening

continues to page 14

New Pharmacy...Continued from Page 12

postgraduate students to further strengthen the profession and support its advancement. Mr Gobotswang further highlighted that the introduction of universal health cover by the government presented good opportunities across the country in terms of job creation for

pharmacists. He encouraged the students to focus on their studies and excel to prepare for the opportunities waiting ahead of them. He urged them to uphold the culture of excellence. Meanwhile, School of Pharmacy alumnus and Ministry of Health Chief Pharmacist, Mr

Moemedi Baendi, advised the students to focus on their studies and collaborate with other students in health science department. He encouraged them to communicate effectively, build relationships and to be accountable at all times.



Pharmacy Students with their mentors and guests after the Coating Ceremony



# Students Urged to be Innovative and Self - Reliant

» *Utilise UB UniPod to establish and develop business projects*

University of Botswana (UB) UniPod Director, Professor Richie Moalosi, has urged students to embrace entrepreneurship and position themselves as future job creators. Professor Moalosi said doing so was key to tackling the country's high youth unemployment rate and fostering long-term economic development.

He made the remarks during a guest lecture titled: "Teacherpreneurship and Educational Innovation" held at UB on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025. He said by shifting from job seeking to job creation students could drive economic development as well as enhance their own future prospects. Professor Moalosi further encouraged the students not to rely on the Government for employment but be innovative to be self-employed. He also advised the students to utilise the UB UniPod to establish and develop their business projects.

US entrepreneur and educator, Mr Samuel Reed, who delivered the lecture, encouraged students to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset, emphasising that it was essential for success in today's competitive business landscape. Mr Reed underscored that developing an

entrepreneurial mindset was crucial for personal success as it empowered individuals to identify opportunities, overcome challenges and adapt in an ever-changing environment. He explained that such a mindset was characterised by taking ownership, thinking creatively, being action-oriented and demonstrating resilience in the face of adversity.

Mr Reed urged the students to develop a strong sense of purpose and adopt an entrepreneurial mindset grounded in creativity, resilience and strategic thinking. He underlined the use of design thinking for problem-solving, encouraged leveraging artificial intelligence for business opportunities and highlighted the importance of setting SMART goals and effective time management for personal and professional growth.



UB Students attending a guest lecturer titled: Teacherpreneurship by US entrepreneur and educator, Mr Samuel Reed to acquire knowledge, skills and entrepreneurship ideas

# Vice Chancellor Calls for Curriculum Reform to Meet Knowledge-based Economy Demands

» *Traditional teaching and learning approaches increasingly outdated and no longer adequate*

University of Botswana (UB) Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, has called on academics to modernise the tertiary education curriculum to meet the demands of the knowledge economy and rapid advancements in artificial intelligence (AI). Professor Norris emphasised that traditional teaching and learning approaches were increasingly outdated and no longer adequate in preparing students for the challenges of the future.

He was speaking at the Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS) 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Conference held at UB from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2025. It was held under the theme, "Strengthening Information and Knowledge Management Paradigms in the Era of Advanced Technologies."

The three-day conference brought together knowledge and information management professionals such as archivists, record managers, librarians, educators, indigenous knowledge management experts, information



5<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Conference attendees listening attentively.

technology specialists, lawyers, educators and practitioners to discuss and explore ways of enhancing information and knowledge management practices in Africa and beyond.

Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Professor Richard Tabulawa, noted that there was a need to enhance and strengthen knowledge and information management, adding that a knowledge-based economy was

not only about the growth of the economy and ensuring general well-being of citizens but wealth creation as well.

Professor Tabulawa further underscored that for a successful knowledge economy, countries must act simultaneously on their education base, innovation systems and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure.

## UB and BHPCA...from page 12

illnesses. It involves the prevention and relief of suffering through early detection, thorough assessment and treatment. Moreover, it provides psychological, social and spiritual support.

UB's Faculty of Health Sciences offers a Master of Nursing Science in Adult Gerontology Oncology and Palliative Care, adding to its range of nursing specialisations. The programme is designed to increase the number of palliative care providers in the country to address the current shortage of resources and improving efficiency in care delivery.



Participants at the UB and BHPCA Palliative care workshop.



# Dr Thabo Seleke's Groundbreaking Research Reshapes Botswana's NCD Policy Discourse

» Examines effectiveness of efforts to address non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Botswana



Dr Thabo Lucas Seleke

Dr Thabo Lucas Seleke's Ph.D. thesis, titled, "The (Un)making of NCD Policy in Botswana: Actor Mobilisation, Inertia and Fragmentation," is now live on X (formerly Twitter), following its impressive endorsement by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Faculty of Public Health and Policy. Dr Seleke's work is a landmark achievement in that it is the first of its kind in Botswana, the fourth in Africa and the first on the continent to employ qualitative research methods. The thesis will not only fuel vital discussions but also significantly impact

and inspire further research within academic circles, captivating and challenging all who engage with it. It seeks to examine the effectiveness of efforts to address non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Botswana including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and cancer, along with associated risk factors such as alcohol and tobacco use.

The thesis examines how stakeholders have been able to build upon and leverage the successes and learning from the country's HIV response particularly given the growing burden of NCDs. Dr Seleke's passion for health policy and systems research earned him the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship which enabled him to pursue an MSc in International Health Policy and Management at Boston University in Massachusetts, USA. He also holds the Duke University Sanford School of Global Health Fellowship. He has been affiliated with the WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland,

working within the Department of Pandemic and Epidemic Diseases Policy Unit. Dr Seleke's training includes "Ethical Issues in International Health Research" at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and "Advanced Qualitative Research Methods" at King's College, London. In addition, he has participated in the Global Leadership Training Programme for Sustainable Development in Africa. He has foundational training in epidemiology and medical statistics from the Medical Research Council in The Gambia. Dr Seleke's thesis is expected to catalyse critical discussions and inspire further exploration within the academic community, making it a key contribution to the discourse on health policy in Botswana and beyond



Find other stories online  
visit [www.ub.bw](http://www.ub.bw)

UB, Mascom Strengthen Ties to Drive Industry-Relevant Research and Workforce Readiness



White Rovers and Ruby Rascals Crowned Fast Break Friday Champions



UB Boxing Club Starts 2025/2026 Boxing Season on High Notes



SHAREit FC Crowned 2025 Vice Chancellor's Cup Champions

## 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.



Professionalism



Equity and diversity



Accountability



Creativity and Innovation



Botho

Graphics: UB Publications

Published by the University of Botswana - Public Affairs, P/Bag 0022 Gaborone BOTSWANA

Direct enquiries and contributions to:

The Editor, UB Newsletter, Tel: +267 3555645, e-mail: [publicaffairs@ub.ac.bw](mailto:publicaffairs@ub.ac.bw)