
THUTO KE THEBE
UNIVERSITY of BOTSWANA
alumni
focus
VISION:
TO BE A LEADING CENTRE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN AFRICA AND THE WORLD
2025 Issue



Contents

Editor's Note	03
Foreword	04
A PhD Power Couple	06
Graduates urged to embrace digital creativity	08
UB Alumni Pioneers Groundbreaking Pangolin Research in Botswana	10
Media student Thebe Sedie shares alumni storytelling experience	12
UB Students Launch Multilingual Society to Promote Botswana's Linguistic Inclusion	13
The Vision Builder	14
UB Students Break Barriers, Win International Nuclear Science Competition	17
UB Academic, Prof Richie Moalosi Appointed Adjunct Professor at Griffith University, Australia	19
The History of Philanthropy Surrounding University of Botswana	20
Alumni Speaks	22
UB Marathon Champions Health, Wellness and Access to Education-Gaolathe	25

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Editor's Note



Kabo Ramasia
Editor

Dear esteemed reader. Welcome to the sixth edition of the Alumni Focus.

As we turn the pages of this 2025 edition of Alumni Focus which is our sixth, we are reminded that every story we tell is part of a larger tapestry, one woven by the dreams, achievements and generosity of our alumni community. Each year, this publication serves not only as a celebration of milestones reached but also as a reflection on how far we have come together as a family connected by shared history and purpose.

This year's edition captures the spirit of our alumni who continue to lead change in boardrooms, classrooms, laboratories, creative industries and communities across the globe. From pioneering entrepreneurs to public servants and innovators, their stories remind us that the legacy of the University of Botswana extends well beyond our campuses. It lives on through the actions, ideas and compassion of those who once walked these halls.

In this issue, we feature the 43rd UB graduation, UB marathon and we profile alumni who are redefining leadership, breaking barriers and giving back in ways that uplift others. You will also find highlights of recent events and opportunities to reconnect and contribute to the next generation of students.

To our readers, thank you for staying engaged and for keeping the flame of our shared mission alive. Your continued support and participation make our alumni network a powerful force for good.

Here's to new beginnings, continued growth and the countless stories yet to be told.

FOREWORD



Professor David Norris
Vice Chancellor

It is my pleasure to present the 2025 edition of Alumni Focus, a publication that continues to celebrate the achievements, journeys and impact of the University of Botswana's alumni. Each year, this newsletter reminds us of a simple truth: our alumni remain the University's most enduring legacy and our most powerful ambassadors.

As an institution founded on the pillars of academic excellence, societal relevance and national development, the University of Botswana draws immense pride from the accomplishments of its graduates across Botswana, the region and the world. Their stories reflected in this edition demonstrate resilience, innovation, leadership and an unshakable commitment to contributing meaningfully to the communities they serve.

This year's edition carries particular significance as it reflects the growing momentum of our transformation agenda. Through renewed investment in teaching, research, innovation and student experience, we are shaping a university that is globally competitive, locally responsive and future-oriented. It is gratifying to see how alumni continue to play an essential role in this transformation whether through mentorship, partnerships, philanthropy or collaboration with our various faculties and units.

I wish to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the alumni who participated in this edition as well as those who continue to engage with the University in various capacities. Your success is our success and your engagement strengthens the bridge between the University and wider society.

As you read through Alumni Focus 2025, I encourage you to reflect on the power of the UB network, one that spans decades, professions and continents. Let these stories inspire renewed pride in your alma mater and motivate you to remain connected, involved and supportive of the next generation of University of Botswana graduates.

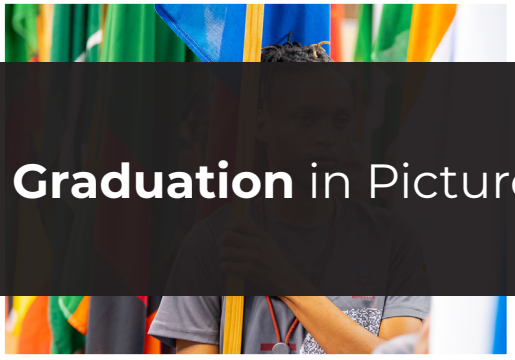
Together, we will continue to advance the University's mission and shape the future of our nation.
















UB **Graduation** in Pictures



A PhD **Power Couple**

Still in their early 30s, Dr Wonderful Choga and Dr Ontlametse Thato Choga, are redefining what partnership and perseverance look like in academia. The inspirational couple recently walked the University of Botswana graduation stage side by side, each earning a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Medical Sciences at the graduation ceremony held on 17 October 2025.

Their achievement is a powerful testament of love, unity in scholarship and unwavering mutual support. Receiving their doctoral degrees alongside one another, Wonderful and Thato were not just celebrating as husband and wife but as fellow researchers and colleagues who continue to make meaningful contributions to scientific research in Botswana and beyond.

Speaking to Alumni Focus on the sidelines of their graduation, the couple paid special tribute to their mentors, Dr Simane Gaseitsiwe and Professor Sikhulile Moyo, for fostering an inclusive research environment that offered equal opportunities to aspiring scientists. At just 31, Dr Ontlametse emphasises the importance of seizing such opportunities, noting that while some may only take a few steps, she and her husband committed fully to the journey of academic excellence from the very beginning.

Reflecting on their shared path, Dr Ontlametse underscores the importance of a supportive partner especially when navigating the demanding terrain of doctoral studies. "Apart from great mentors, you also need a supportive partner," she says. "When you are both pursuing PhDs, there will be challenging times when you are constantly occupied with deadlines and research commitments." She acknowledges that studying together is not easy particularly when both partners face simultaneous academic pressures but notes that sacrifice, careful planning and stepping in for one another make success possible.

Challenging the conventional notion of marriage as a strict 50/50 partnership, Dr Ontlametse shares that sometimes one partner must carry more weight to ensure shared goals are achieved. This flexibility, she adds, makes it easier to balance multiple roles, including motherhood, without losing sight of academic and professional ambitions.

For his part, Dr Wonderful highlights agility and discipline as key ingredients in their success. He notes that while planning is essential, no academic journey is ever entirely smooth. "I would be surprised if somebody has a smooth plan. It's usually very shaky," he reckons, encouraging couples and partners aspiring to pursue PhDs to maintain a strong sense of identity, remain focused and adhere to strict timelines. He credits his wife as the cornerstone of support that enabled him to reach this milestone.

Congratulating the duo, the Botswana Harvard Health Partnership (BHP) describes their achievement as a resilient success story grounded in dedication, teamwork and scientific excellence. In a social media statement, BHP notes that between them, the Chogas boast an impressive record of more than 90 high-impact peer-reviewed publications with over 70 by Dr Wonderful and more than 20 by Dr Ontlametse. Their research spans critical public health areas, including HIV, tuberculosis and emerging viral infections.

Dr Wonderful Choga currently serves as a Senior Bioinformatician, leading multiple genomic analyses and supporting national and regional efforts in infectious disease surveillance. On the other hand, Dr Ontlametse Choga is a virologist and postdoctoral fellow whose work focuses on HIV genomics, treatment outcomes and immune response research.

Both are proud products of BHP's Training and Capacity Building Initiative, a flagship programme designed to nurture the next generation of scientists through mentorship and academic collaboration with local and regional universities. According to BHP, the couple's academic journey exemplifies the initiative's mission to strengthen Botswana's scientific leadership in global health research.

As they reflect on their shared journey, the Chogas express heartfelt gratitude to all who supported them and encourage young people to pursue their dreams relentlessly. Looking ahead, they have committed themselves to advancing medical science and contributing to Botswana's development through research that responds to national socio-economic and health priorities.





GRADUATES URGED TO EMBRACE **DIGITAL CREATIVITY**

Story by Alumni Focus writer, KABO RAMASIA

University of Botswana (UB) graduates have been urged to cultivate digital skills and leverage emerging technologies to unlock new opportunities in an increasingly digital global landscape.

The call was made during the University's 43rd Graduation Ceremony held in October at the UB Campus Indoor Sports Centre under the theme "Empowering Futures: Advancing Human Dignity in the Digital Era."

Delivering the keynote address, Minister of Higher Education, Prince Maele, challenged graduates to be bold, innovative and intentional about carving out their place in digital spaces. He said the knowledge gained throughout their studies should propel them beyond being mere consumers of digital content to becoming creators who contribute meaningfully to Botswana's development agenda.

However, the minister reminded graduates that technological advancement must never come at the expense of ethics, dignity and human rights.

"The digital space, while opening immense opportunities for innovation, education and business also presents new risks from privacy violations and misinformation to online exploitation and inequality," he said. "It is, therefore, essential that our embrace of technology be guided by ethical responsibility. The digital revolution must never undermine the values of respect, fairness and justice."



Maele noted that Botswana faced a future marked by economic uncertainties particularly declining mineral revenues that once sustained national development. As a result, he said, innovation and new ways of thinking were essential to drive transformation.

"The real wealth of Botswana lies not beneath the ground but within its people, within you, our graduates," he said. "You are the generation to take us from dependence to self-reliance, from consumption to innovation, from hope to action."



> ***The digital space, while opening immense opportunities for innovation, education and business, also presents new risks from privacy violations and misinformation to online exploitation and inequality***

He emphasised that the country's sustainability depends not merely on natural resources but on the creativity, resilience and talent of its citizens. Developing human capital, he added, is becoming Botswana's "new diamonds."

The minister also highlighted the profound global shifts emerging from artificial intelligence, robotics, climate change, the green economy and digital transformation. He urged graduates to position themselves at the forefront of solving these complex challenges.

"Explore entrepreneurship. Start something the world has never seen. Let your excellence be unstoppable. Go out there and break boundaries no one else dared cross," he said. "Design the next frontier in energy, health, technology or trade. Teach, lead, innovate, and when you return, bring back the best the world has to offer for your country."

The ceremony marked the culmination of years of dedication for thousands of graduates, who now join a rapidly evolving workforce that increasingly demands digital fluency, creativity and ethical leadership.



UB ALUMNI PIONEERS GROUNDBREAKING **PANGOLIN RESEARCH** IN BOTSWANA

Story by Alumni Focus writer, KABO RAMASIA

Botswana has recorded a major scientific milestone with the completion of its first-ever dedicated study on pangolins, one of the world's most trafficked and least understood mammals.

The groundbreaking research, led by University of Botswana MPhil in Natural Resources Management from the Okavango Research Institute (ORI) graduate, Mokwaledi Mafa, sheds new light on the ecology and survival needs of Temminck's ground pangolins in the northern part of the country.

Mafa, who now serves with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) under the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, embarked on the research after observing a worrying trend: pangolins rescued from the illegal wildlife trade were being released without proper ecological guidance or post-release monitoring.



His study, titled: "The Ecology of Temminck's Ground Pangolins (Smutsia temminckii) in Northern Botswana," focuses on understanding how the elusive mammals select burrows and navigate their landscapes. Using a suite of bio-logging tools including GPS, UHF and VHF tracking tags to track the movements of pangolins in some of Botswana's most challenging terrains.

"Fieldwork was physically and emotionally demanding," says Mafa in an interview. "Locating pangolins in dense terrain was difficult, and transmitter drop-offs, often caused by hyaenas posed serious challenges."

Mafa recalls one of his lowest moments after spending three nights waiting by a burrow, only for the pangolin to escape through a hidden exit. He adds that he also had close encounters with lions and leopard experiences which he never shared with his supervisors. Instead, he says such experiences reminded him of the real risks of field research.

Despite the challenges, he reckons the study yielded groundbreaking insights into pangolin ecology. The findings have already informed improvements in transmitter design and highlight the critical need for structured post-release monitoring of pangolins rescued from smugglers.

The research marks a significant step forward for Botswana which has seen rising cases of pangolin trafficking. With evidence-based recommendations now available, wildlife authorities will be better positioned to safeguard the threatened species.

Mafa's work has since earned him recognition beyond Botswana's borders. He has been appointed National Pangolin Coordinator and currently serves as a member of both the IUCN Pangolin Specialist Group and the International Bio-logging Society.





Media student **Thebe Sedie** shares alumni storytelling experience

Fourth-year Bachelor of Media Studies student, Thebe Seth Sedie, was part of the three students who joined the University of Botswana's Alumni Relations Unit for their industrial attachment, an experience he says has transformed both his professional outlook and appreciation for the institution's broader ecosystem.

Sedie was with Boipelo Motswetla and Rebaone Karel who equally got the privilege of working with the alumni office this past winter.

Walking into the unit for the first time, Sedie says he was struck by its high level of professionalism and structure. He quickly discovered how much work takes place behind the scenes to maintain UB's connection with its growing alumni community.

Sedie says his primary responsibility became one of the unit's flagship initiatives: the UB Alumni Focus Series (Where Are They Now?), which celebrates former students who have made strides in various fields. Sedie helped coordinate outreach efforts, engaged alumni and supported the production of the profiles.

For Sedie, the attachment became a real-time extension of his academic studies. The theories of strategic communication, audience engagement and storytelling that he had learned in class came to life as he interacted with alumni and crafted communication content. He says the experience sharpened his public speaking, professional writing and stakeholder engagement, skills-capabilities he believes are essential for anyone entering the media and public relations sector.

What stood out most for him was the opportunity to interact with alumni who have built remarkable careers. "Hearing their stories and seeing their continued connection to UB made the work meaningful and inspiring," he notes.

However, the role was not without its challenges. Reaching high-profile or busy alumni often required patience and strategy. Sedie overcame these obstacles through courteous persistence and clear communication.

Further, he states that throughout his attachment, the Alumni Relations team was supportive and empowering. "They created an environment where I could ask questions, learn through observation, and take on tasks independently with confidence," he says.



The experience reshaped his understanding of alumni engagement. He now sees it as a long-term relationship-building process that extends beyond simple communication one that fuels institutional pride, strengthens networks and fosters meaningful connections.

In addition, Sedie also walks away with a renewed appreciation for the University of Botswana. Witnessing the coordination, outreach and strategic planning involved in maintaining alumni relations revealed a side of UB that most students rarely encounter, he states.

"I now see the university as a much broader ecosystem than what we experience as students," he reflects.

Looking ahead, Sedie believes the attachment has given him a strong foundation for a career in media communication and public relations. His confidence has grown, as has his understanding of the professionalism required in corporate environments.

"I've learned the importance of professionalism, consistency, and taking initiative," he says. With these lessons, Sedie feels better prepared to pursue opportunities in corporate communication, stakeholder engagement, and related fields.

UB Students Launch **Multilingual Society** to Promote Botswana's Linguistic Inclusion

The University of Botswana (UB) has launched a new student-led initiative, the Multilingual Society, which seeks to promote linguistic diversity, cultural pride and inclusive education across campus.

The society, founded by Ms Thuo Maokisa, a Bachelor of Arts student in Humanities (African Languages, Literature and Media Studies), was inspired by her experiences in broadcasting and her recognition of the lack of platforms celebrating Botswana's linguistic richness.

"We need a space that not only preserves our mother tongues but also unites speakers of diverse languages," said Maokisa during the launch.

In her keynote remarks, Dr Barbara Pansiri, Director of Student Welfare, commended the students for their initiative and underscored the importance of student-led clubs in enriching learning beyond the classroom.

"It takes a village to raise a child," noted Dr Pansiri, highlighting the University's commitment to holistic student development through civic engagement, cultural awareness and professional networking.

She further stressed the value of preserving indigenous knowledge and emphasised that language played a critical role in shaping identity. Dr Pansiri encouraged students to embrace their heritage and use the Multilingual Society as a platform for growth, connection and advocacy. The Multilingual Society aims to become a hub for language advocacy, cultural exchange and policy influence, positioning students as future leaders in education and social cohesion.

Also speaking at the event, Ms Dianah Itumeleng, Cultural Custodian and Lecturer in African Languages and Literature, commended ethnic groups such as the Bakalaga and Bakgalagadi for their steadfast pride in their languages and traditions, an attitude she hoped would inspire other communities across Botswana.

"Children learn from their elders. They should preserve their languages so they are not lost to the younger generation," urged Ms Itumeleng.

Source:https://www.ub.bw/news/ub-students-launch-multilingual-society-promote-botswana%E2%80%99s-linguistic-inclusion



THE VISION BUILDER

How UB Alumna Ndiko Muzila Turned One Learner, One Room, and One Dream into a National Education Movement

When Ndiko Muzila arrived at the University of Botswana in 2006, she was a quiet young woman with a passion for Theology, Linguistics and education. What she didn't know then was that her journey through UB's lecture halls would one day set the foundation for a transformative movement in Botswana's education landscape.

Today, she is the CEO and Founder of Dawn Bell Academy and Dawn Training Institute-institutions that have grown from the humblest beginnings to become vibrant forces in both formal schooling and community empowerment.

But the story did not start with glory. It started with grit.

For Muzila, UB was more than an institution. It was a place of awakening. She pursued a Bachelor of Humanities and later a Postgraduate Diploma in Education, a combination that would seemingly appear unconventional to some but to her, it was perfect.

"I chose the University of Botswana because it represented excellence, credibility and national pride," she says, reflecting on years that shaped her discipline and confidence. Among the lecturers who left an imprint, Dr. Lovemore Togarasei stands out - a remarkable academic whose commitment to rigour and critical thought pushed her to excel.

It was also at UB that she discovered courses that would later define her entrepreneurial edge like School Management, Instructional Materials Design and Curriculum Development. They exposed her not just to teaching but to the art of building, shaping and innovating within educational systems.

Fresh from university and equipped with a PGDE, Muzila secured a temporary teaching post at Philip Moshotle Primary School. But this job was more strategic than it looked. She says it was her training ground. Muzila states that while teaching full-time, she worked tirelessly after hours to build what would become Dawn Bell Academy funding it from her then salary.

She adds that the Dawn Bell Academy Dream was also financed through selling books, home-cooked meals and even ginger juice to raise the first funds. "Every effort was a step toward the vision," she says.

And then, in 2013, that vision became real.



> ***The digital space, while opening immense opportunities for innovation, education and business, also presents new risks from privacy violations and misinformation to online exploitation and inequality***

Dawn Bell Academy opened with exactly one learner. One room. One teacher. Her.

By 2015, she was leading the Academy full-time. Today, it employs 257 staff members and is widely recognised for its innovative programmes, homeschooling model and values-driven approach.

Muzila describes her leadership philosophy as both strategic and people-centric. As CEO, she guides growth, oversees academic quality, manages finances, mentors future leaders, builds partnerships and champions Dawn Bell's core values: excellence, integrity, compassion and community impact.

"I see myself as a shepherd of both people and vision," she says.

It's a sentiment that perfectly captures her leadership style.

While Dawn Bell Academy is widely celebrated, Muzila's impact extends far beyond school walls. Over the years, she has engaged in community initiatives like adopting over 70 children supported with free education and welfare, Support for three orphanages, Partnerships with 25+ government schools, Youth Explosion Mentorship Programme reaching thousands, Elderly care initiatives and Prison Ministry work focused on hope and rehabilitation. However, she clearly explains that, for her, this is not charity but a calling.

Looking back in retrospect, Muzila says one of her boldest pursuits was pioneering professional homeschooling in Botswana. The model was new, unconventional and often met with resistance.

"Another challenge I faced was scepticism and doubt from people who could not envision the success of a non-traditional learning system," she recalls.

But she persisted. Demonstrated. Educated. And allowed results to speak.

Thus, the model has since proved its worth showing improvements in learner performance, confidence and emotional wellbeing.

Despite her achievements, Muzila remains a firm believer in continuous learning. She has completed a Master of Education, is pursuing a PhD and has benefitted from leadership fellowships such as the Mandela Washington Fellowship.

She notes that her commitment to learning is not academic vanity but a strategy.

"Continuous learning is absolutely critical in today's fast-paced, ever-evolving world." she says.

Crediting the learning institution, Muzila takes pride in being a UB alumna, stating that it provided her with a strong academic foundation, nurtured her leadership abilities and shaped her worldview. She states that it was during her stay at UB that she developed critical thinking skills, discipline and the confidence to pursue ambitious goals.



To this end, she adds that she has since remained connected to her alma mater. This is through supporting students, mentorship and participating in university-related initiatives as well as collaborating on community projects.

Against this backdrop, she is of the view that UB alumni have a role to play in shaping Botswana's future. She advises that an actively engaged alumni can drive innovation and entrepreneurship, create employment opportunities and empower youth, lead both public and private institutions with integrity, mentor and equip next generation of leaders, support research, policy development and capacity-building initiatives and contribute to community development and social programs amongst others.

"By leveraging their education and networks, UB alumni not only strengthen national development but also enhance Botswana's competitiveness on the global stage. When alumni act with purpose, integrity and creativity, they become catalysts for progress, transformation and sustainable impact," she adds.

Meanwhile, she harbours dreams of establishing Dawn University, expanding access to quality, values-driven education that nurtures both academic and character development. At a professional level, she reveals her intention to continue innovating in education, publishing and leadership, creating platforms that empower the youth and support life-long learning.

As a parting shot, she shared messages to both students and alumni. To the students, she calls on them to embrace their purpose, pursue excellence, and never underestimate the power of faith and perseverance. To alumni, she urges them to remain connected, support each other and leverage their skills and experiences to drive national development and global competitiveness. "Remember, true success is measured not just by personal achievement but by the lives you uplift and the legacy you live behind," she notes, buttressing the paramountcy of investing in people.

UB STUDENTS BREAK BARRIERS, WIN INTERNATIONAL **NUCLEAR SCIENCE COMPETITION**

Three University of Botswana (UB) students have earned international acclaim, putting Botswana on the global map after winning a prestigious nuclear science competition hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The competition, themed "Shaping Africa's Future Through Nuclear Sciences and Technology," was open to female university students across Africa and aimed at showcasing young women's understanding of nuclear science as well as their potential to shape sustainable solutions for the continent.

The UB team, comprising Duduetsang Ranko, Gladys Mapugwa and Neliah Jena, all pursuing a BSc in Radiation and Health Physics in the Department of Physics, emerged winners with their innovative proposal titled "Induced Mutagenesis Using Gamma Radiation for the Development of Drought and Waterlogging Tolerant Vegetables."

Their project seeks to explore how gamma radiation can be applied in agricultural research to create vegetable varieties resilient to extreme weather conditions such as droughts and floods - challenges that continue to threaten food security in Botswana and across Africa.

The competition was launched on the 4th of April 2025 and closed on 30th of May 2025, drawing entries from several African universities. After rigorous adjudication, the UB team's proposal was adjudged the best, a victory that has been hailed as a milestone in both nuclear science innovation and female participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

As part of their prize, the students will travel to Vienna, Austria, where they will attend the official award ceremony and present their proposal at the Vienna International Centre from 15th – 19th September 2025, fully sponsored by IAEA.



Speaking on the achievement, the Department of Physics congratulated the students, noting that their success reflects the University of Botswana's growing impact in nuclear science research and its contribution to addressing Africa's development challenges.

The win is also a boost to Botswana's representation in global scientific platforms particularly in advancing the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, a core mandate of IAEA.

Source:https://www.ub.bw/news/ub-students-break-barriers-win-international-nuclear-science-competition







UB Academic, **Prof Richie Moalosi** Appointed Adjunct Professor at Griffith University, Australia

The University of Botswana (UB) has recorded another milestone on the global academic stage following the appointment of Professor Richie Moalosi as an Adjunct Professor at Griffith University, one of Australia's leading public universities.

Professor Moalosi has formally accepted the offer which runs for a three-year period until December 2028. Reacting to the news, Professor Moalosi describes the appointment as both an honour and a significant professional milestone. He says the recognition reaffirms his long-standing academic, research and innovation contributions at national, regional and international levels.

"Professionally, the appointment recognises my expertise and sustained engagement in design, innovation and applied research. It strengthens my ability to contribute meaningfully to global scholarship, interdisciplinary collaboration, postgraduate supervision and research excellence," he adds.

Beyond personal achievement, Professor Moalosi notes that the appointment carries strategic value for the University of Botswana, enhancing its international visibility and reinforcing its reputation as a source of globally recognised academic leadership. He explains that the role creates concrete opportunities for strengthened institutional collaboration between UB and Griffith University including joint research initiatives, staff and student exchanges, co-supervision of postgraduate students as well as knowledge transfer aligned with Botswana's national development priorities.

In his capacity as Adjunct Professor, Professor Moalosi will contribute to collaborative teaching and guest lecturing in areas related to design, innovation and sustainability. He will also engage in joint research activities including co-authoring peer-reviewed publications and participating in funded research projects.

Other responsibilities include the co-supervision of Masters and Doctoral students, participation in academic seminars and conferences besides supporting the development of international research and innovation partnerships between the two institutions.

The appointment is expected to yield high-impact research outputs, strengthened international collaboration, enhanced postgraduate training and tangible academic and innovation benefits for both universities. Welcoming the achievement, UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, praised Professor Moalosi's accomplishment, describing it as a proud moment for the institution.

Source:https://www.ub.bw/news/ub-academic-prof-richie-moalosi-appointed-adjunct-professor-griffith-university-australia

The History of Philanthropy Surrounding **University of Botswana**

The University of Botswana Foundation derives its inspiration from the 1976 visionary appeal for funds to set up a University Campus in Botswana. The effort, known as the Botswana University Campus Appeal (BUCA) was championed by one of the country's founding fathers, Sir Seretse Khama, the first President of the Republic of Botswana. This national campaign for funds followed a unilateral nationalisation in 1975 of what was formerly a tripartite education institution known as the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, located at the Roma Campus in Lesotho. That action resulted in the withdrawal of students from Botswana and Swaziland, and intensified pressure to fast-track expansion plans for the small university campus in Botswana.

Although UBLS was equally funded by the Governments of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, comparatively it had little presence in Botswana and Swaziland during the first phase of its existence from 1964 to 1970. As a result, the 1975 nationalisation of the campus facility in Lesotho ushered in BUCA to make provisions to accommodate students expelled from Roma.

The BUCA initiative entailed cooperation at ministerial, council and local community levels. The campaign, code-named Motho le Motho Kgomo, which translates to One Man, One Beast ('man' to read generically) galvanised the traditional values of self-reliance and giving together with charitable organisations, the private sector (local and abroad), and Botswana's bilateral partners into a force that generated a substantial amount of money for the erection



BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS

Will Liberia shock change U.S. views?

NAIROBI: For U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Africa has been a magical garden of fruits and flowers, exotic beasts and leaping dancers. It has also been a continent of ideological ferment and of challenges to traditional western thinking by dynamic national leaders who have impressed him deeply.

Ironically, the most Americanised country in black Africa, Liberia, has been in the words of one official, "a depressing, appalling slum." The senior U.S. officials who make this last assessment do so not to slander Liberia but as a kind of self-reproach, a painful recognition that after 130 years of exploitation by uncontrolled American private enterprise, Liberia has not become the showplace of democracy and prosperity that it might have been.

If anything, it is the opposite — an outpost of 19th century plantations on a continent that has impressed Dr Kissinger as being very much in the 20th century.

U.S. officials here say that the United States never did for Liberia what Britain, Belgium and France provided for their African colonies — a bureaucracy that laid the foundations, however imperfect, for independence and progress.

Liberia, founded by black Americans in 1832, has always been independent, controlled by a tiny minority of American-descended blacks. It was until recently strongly influenced by Firestone Tyre and Rubber Company.

On the day Dr Kissinger arrived in Monrovia, the capital, the twice-weekly Liberian Age carried a report that President William Tolbert had gone to the B.F. Goodrich Rubber Company to warn workers not to strike against their American employers.

Had Dr Kissinger visited Liberia on his six-nation trip, the impact of Monrovia's squalor might not have been so devastating.

But he came to Liberia after seeing bustling, modern Nairobi: The graceful Tanzanian capital, Dar es Salaam; lush, garden-like Lusaka, Zambia; and Kinshasa, Zaire, a poorer nation with definite problems of its own but certainly on the road to progress.

The contrast was too great . . . Dr Kissinger, of course travels inside a cocoon of security from airports to government mansions. So, he was spared the sights of the searing poverty that does exist in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Zaire. But in Tanzania, Zambia and Zaire there was not even a facade of prosperity.

A high U.S. official compared Liberia to "Banana Republics" in South America which are strongly influenced by plantations owned by U.S.- companies. "This was a banana republic — and for the same reasons," he commented.

Recognition of these reasons may have a significant effect on future U.S. behaviour in world economic forums.

Speaking to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) here with proposals for an international investment bank, Dr Kissinger had to resist pressures from U.S. multinational corporations that want to deal directly with developing countries.

The resources bank would act as a buffer for the companies protecting them from expropriation while ensuring that the developing countries receive a fair return on their resources.

With Dr Kissinger having seen Liberia, it will be an interesting test to see how much weight those private enterprise arguments carry in future. The other interesting tests of the future will be how the African countries behave towards the United States now that they have been exposed to Dr Kissinger's personal charm.

His most moving moment of the 13-day trip came when Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda rose spontaneously at a luncheon, made an impromptu heartfelt reply to Dr Kissinger's speech in support for black-majority rule in Africa and then impulsively embraced him. Dr Kissinger's eyes glistened behind his glasses.

The Secretary of State was, in turn, deeply impressed by the majestic, 86-year-old Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya and the established excellent support with the warm, witty President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

He privately voiced admiration for the leadership abilities and pragmatism of Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko and he gave perhaps the highest praise of all to the intellect and wisdom of Senegal's President Leopold Senghor.

A senior American official said Dr Kissinger had learned a good deal on his trip through Africa, especially since it is a continent where formal pronouncements mean little and human relations means much.

But the test of the visit will be: **WHETHER** the African nations can show the patience Dr Kissinger has called for in solving the Rhodesian dispute; **WHETHER** radical nations like Tanzania will continue to vote consistently against the United States in the United Nations, and **WHETHER** the United States Government can persuade its private and its private companies to mobilise their resources and contribute to Africa's needs, even though some Africans reject a private enterprise approach.

Dr Kissinger appears both pleased with his trip and optimistic for the future — Reuter

Policeman falls off a train

Constable Gipsy Moatswi of the Botswana Police was admitted to Jubilee Hospital in Francistown last week after receiving injuries when he fell off a moving train.

He hurt his left ear, right eye and shoulder when he tried to descend from the south bound passenger train.

The train pulled out of the station while the constable, who was checking on immigrants, was still on. His condition is reported to be improving.

Liberia to "Banana Republics" in South America which are strongly influenced by plantations owned by U.S.- companies. "This was a banana republic — and for the same reasons," he commented.

Recognition of these reasons may have a significant effect on future U.S. behaviour in world economic forums.

Speaking to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) here with proposals for an international investment bank, Dr Kissinger had to resist pressures from U.S. multinational corporations that want to deal directly with developing countries.

The resources bank would act as a buffer for the companies protecting them from expropriation while ensuring that the developing countries receive a fair return on their resources.

With Dr Kissinger having seen Liberia, it will be an interesting test to see how much weight those private enterprise arguments carry in future. The other interesting tests of the future will be how the African countries behave towards the United States now that they have been exposed to Dr Kissinger's personal charm.

His most moving moment of the 13-day trip came when Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda rose spontaneously at a luncheon, made an impromptu heartfelt reply to Dr Kissinger's speech in support for black-majority rule in Africa and then impulsively embraced him. Dr Kissinger's eyes glistened behind his glasses.

The Secretary of State was, in turn, deeply impressed by the majestic, 86-year-old Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya and the established excellent support with the warm, witty President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

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The train pulled out of the station while the constable, who was checking on immigrants, was still on. His condition is reported to be improving.

Quit Man, One Beast

BUCA

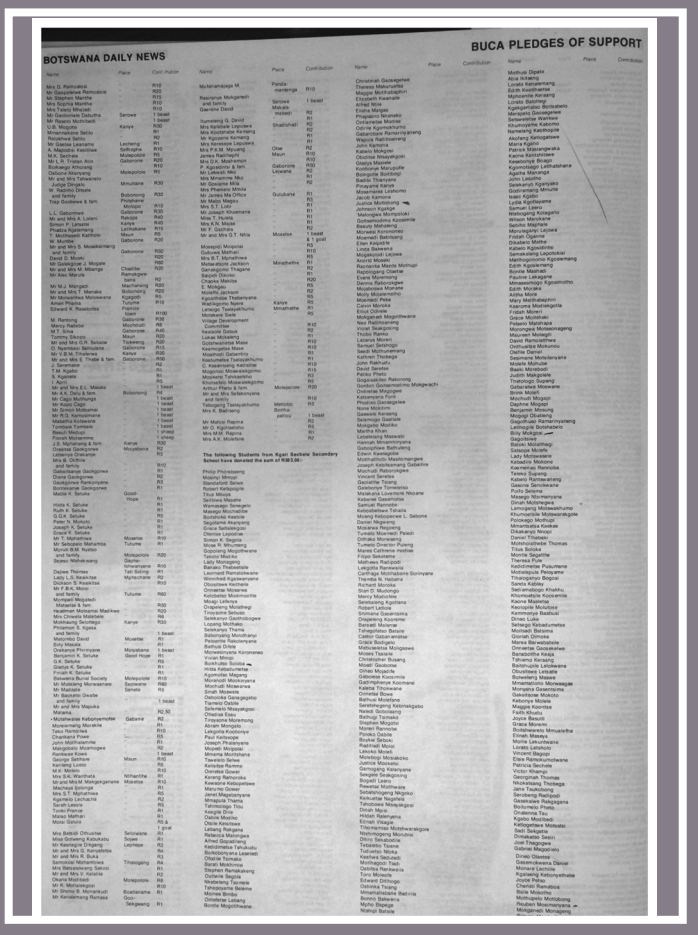
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BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS

BUCA PLEDGES OF SUPPORT

of key university campus facilities in Gaborone, the Capital of Botswana. The appeal sought donations in cash or kind, livestock, grain or any other form of contribution, and was premised on a number of pillars – an appeal to the national spirit for a national university; proof to aid donors and the rest of the world that in times of trouble Batswana can tap into their traditional value of self-reliance to build a national institution; educating Batswana on the importance of university; emphasis on the need for skilled manpower in a young democracy, so as to reduce reliance on expensive expatriate labour; the university as a service provider to the community; as well as an emotional national appeal. All rank and file participated and came forward with contributions, including donations by farmers, and people earning daily wages.

The moral behind the BUCA account is to demonstrate its seminal impact on the establishment of what is now known as the University of Botswana, and that giving is inherent within Botswana cultural values. This philanthropic event further inspired other major fundraising activities in the life of the institution and has become the driving force behind the University's fundraising arm, the University of Botswana Foundation.

Source:https://www.ub.bw/administration-and-support/vice-chancellor/university-botswana-foundation/history-philanthropy-surrounding-university-botswana



Season's Greetings, Christmas is finally here!

Dear esteemed reader,



As we come to the close of another remarkable year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you, our cherished UB Alumni Focus community. This season reminds us of the power of connection, generosity, and reflection, values that continue to define our vibrant alumni family across Botswana and beyond.

Christmas is a time to celebrate the bonds we share and to appreciate the journeys that have shaped us. May this festive season bring you peace, joy, and the warmth of loved ones. As we look ahead to the new year, we remain committed to strengthening our ties with you through stories of impact, collaboration, and lifelong learning.

From all of us at UB Alumni Relations and the Alumni Focus editorial team, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous, purpose-filled New Year. Thank you for being part of our story and for allowing us to be part of yours.

Stay safe and enjoy your holidays



ALUMNI

Goitsemodimo Tseladikae
MBA Holder and Lawyer



Goitse Tseladikae graduated from UB in 2008, she credits her LLB from UB as the foundation that sparked her blossoming career. She has specialised in competition and consumer law, regulatory compliance and governance for the past 9 years. Her wish is to contribute to the growth of ethical and transparent regulatory systems and to inspire young women in law and leadership to pursue excellence with purpose.

MBA (Law) graduate of University of London

Awardee of the prestigious Women's Global MBA Scholarship by the University of London

Innocent Molato
Manager Digital & Interactive Markerting, Stanbic Bank Botswana



My journey at the University of Botswana laid the foundation for the leader I am today. As a student assistant in the Sports Department, I learned the value of discipline and operational excellence. Leading the UB Horizon newspaper as Editor-in-Chief deepened my communication and storytelling skills, core strengths I now apply in brand and marketing. Serving as Minister of Information and Publicity on the Student Council taught me how to lead with influence and represent diverse voices. I also consistently volunteered for UB Foundation events, gaining a strong sense of service and purpose. These experiences shaped my leadership style- proactive, people-centered, and impact-driven. They set the tone for my success at BOFINET, where I was named Employee of the Year, and now at Stanbic Bank Botswana, where I've received multiple Mark of Excellence awards. It all began with UB's culture of opportunity and growth, which challenged me to lead, serve, and continually raise the bar.

SPEAKS



Bakotelo Moagisi Mmipi

Attorney

Bakotelo Moagisi Mmipi is an Alumni of the University of Botswana in Class of 2018 LLB. An admitted attorney who, through the leadership development he has gained in the University of Botswana as the SRC President, was awarded the prestigious Chevening Scholarship. He attained is Master of International Commercial and Business Law from the University of Essex Additionally, he is a recipient of the Study of US Institute Programme where he underwent training on Civic Engagement at the University of Washington. In a combination of his leadership and professional skills, Bakotelo currently runs a General Litigation firm which predominately focuses on Public Interest Litigation to foster access to Justice by marginalized people. He is engaged with both the private and public sectors, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and development partners locally and internationally with a view to provide legal education and public awareness. He is also a Member of the University of Botswana Law Department where he currently serves as a lecturer. In recent years, he has been involved in various legal matters ranging from constitutional and human rights protections. He is driven by his passion for equality and the drive to eliminate all forms of discrimination through the practice of law. In future, he bears interest in Diplomacy and Political Leadership.



KUTLWANO PELONTLE

Executive Director at Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO)

My journey began at the University of Botswana, where my dreams of impact, service, and purpose first took shape. I pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science, majoring in Political Science and Public Administration, and later deepened this foundation through a Master's degree in Politics and International Relations. Within those lecture halls, I was shaped by academic rigor, critical inquiry, and experiences that prepared me to think beyond borders toward Botswana and the world.

From the University of Botswana, my path extended outward into a career dedicated to development and public service. I have worked across government at the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, international organisations including the United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM) — and civil society. Throughout this journey, my work has focused on advocacy, human rights, democracy, and sustainable development, with a strong commitment to advancing people-centred and sustainable development initiatives in Botswana.

Today, I continue this journey in service to the nation as the Executive Director of the Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO). Grounded in the values and knowledge shaped at the University of Botswana, my work remains driven by a commitment to strengthening civil society, advancing democratic governance, and contributing meaningfully to Botswana's development.

What began at the University of Botswana continues to live on shaping my contribution to Botswana and extending into the world beyond.

Our Thank you! Re a leboga! Proud Sponsors

The University of Botswana (UB) and its Foundation extends their heartfelt appreciation to all those who sponsored and participated in this year's Annual UB Marathon held on September 7 2025. Your invaluable support made this event a pleasant success. Le kamoso.

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SPORT

UB Marathon Champions **Health, Wellness and Access to Education**- *Gaolathe*



The Vice-President and Minister of Finance Ndaba Gaolathe has commended the UB marathon for its role in promoting health and access to education.

Delivering his keynote address at the occasion of the 4th Annual UB marathon held on 7th September at the UB Stadium Parking Zone, Gaolathe stressed the importance of the event as just going beyond a competition but an important fixture in the national sporting calendar that champions the clarion call for healthy living and supporting access to education.

Gaolathe said the marathon demonstrates the powerful intersection between wellness, community empowerment, and investment in education. He described running as "an art form" that strengthens both mind and body, noting that it is running itself not motivation alone that "ignites the spirit, sharpens the mind, and strengthens us for everything else the day may demand."

Established in 2022, the marathon raises funds for the UB Graduate Scholarship Endowment Fund, which supports postgraduate education for students who may not otherwise afford to continue their studies. Gaolathe emphasised that this mission aligns with Government's broader agenda to transform Botswana into a knowledge-driven, diversified economy capable of competing in an era defined by artificial intelligence, robotics, and rapid technological advancement.

He stressed that universities must serve as hubs of excellence that drive research, innovation, and skills development, adding that UB remains a "living monument of our nation's history and a launchpad for future engineers, planners, innovators, and thinkers.

Gaolathe also linked the marathon to Botswana's Vision 2036 pillar on Human and Social Development. According to the World Health Organisation, Non-Communicable Diseases account for nearly half of all deaths in Botswana-a burden he said events like the UB Marathon help to combat by encouraging healthy lifestyles and improving public wellness.

He urged Batswana to support UB's role in nation-building, saying that even those who did not study at the institution have a responsibility to "plough back" into their alma maters or national institutions that shaped Botswana's progress. He also challenged the nation to "change our pace" in its journey toward high-income status moving from "a brisk walk" to "a paced jog" to keep up with global development demands.



Describing Botswana's development as a marathon requiring endurance and resilience, he said the country is "not running aimlessly" but is guided by education, innovation, and a shared vision for a better future. He encouraged participants to "run together," support one another, and remain steadfast in pursuit of a "New Botswana awakened, resilient, and full of promise."

Over the years, the UB Marathon has continued to position itself as more than a sporting event, it is a national call to action promoting wellness, solidarity, and sustainable investment in education. As runners crossed the finish line, the institution reaffirmed its commitment to shaping a healthier, smarter, and more prosperous Botswana.







Mark your calendars! 🗓️

The next UB Marathon returns on

06 Sep 2026

Get ready to run for a purpose!

THUTO KE THEBE

UNIVERSITY of BOTSWANA

Attention all UB Graduates...

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