

UB NEWS

Official University of Botswana Newsletter



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September 2021

UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA IMPROVES ITS GLOBAL RESEARCH IMPACT



Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris.



The University of Botswana continues to gain global recognition as a fountain of knowledge and impactful research.

The University of Botswana research volume and its teaching and learning continue to generate a high global impact, placing the institution among the highest ranked universities globally.

In the latest Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings which are released annually in September, the University of Botswana continued to show improvement in its academic performance. The University of Botswana continues to make strides in international standing and competitiveness as Botswana's premier institution of higher

learning, joining the Top 20 in Africa. In Botswana, the University of Botswana continues to retain position one.

THE rankings are amongst the world's most prestigious and widely referenced. For the latest rankings, more than 108 million citations from over 14.4 million research public citations were considered including survey responses from almost 22 000 scholars globally. The rankings play a significant role in the global recognition of qualifications obtained from the University of Botswana because they are renowned for being credible and comprehensive.

In THE rankings, universities are assessed based on 13 performance indicators which are grouped into five pillars: Teaching (the learning environment); Research (volume, income, and reputation); Citations (research influenced); Industry income (knowledge transfer) and International Outlook (staff, students and research). The results of the assessment are independently audited by Price-Waterhouse Coopers (PwC). The University of Botswana registered a significant growth in all the five pillars with its citation impact score increasing

continues to page 2

INSIDE:

- 2 BIODIESEL RESEARCH PROJECT YIELDS POSITIVE RESULTS
- 3 DR MALEBOGO BAKWENA IN AFRICA'S TOP 30 TRAILBLAZERS
- 4 UB-UPENN STAFF DONATE 17 LOWER LIMB PROSTHESES
- 5 UB UNDERTAKES TO HELP TURN MANYANA VILLAGE INTO MODEL SMART VILLAGE
- 6 2019 VALEDICTORIAN HAPPY TO BE BACK AT UB FOR HER MASTERS DEGREE

from page 1

UB IMPROVES ITS GLOBAL RESEARCH

two-fold from 13.7/100 (2021) to 26.0/100 (2022).

The results present a positive outlook as the University of Botswana gears up towards realising its ambition of being a research-intensive institution. The University of

Botswana's performance during the review period was notable as it maintained its relative position in Botswana, Africa and the World notwithstanding challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The University is determined to live up to its vision of being a distinctive centre of academic excellence in Botswana, Africa and globally by 2029.

Through its recently launched strategy, the

University of Botswana under the leadership of its Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, has taken a bold step to continue measuring progress in achieving this vision by subjecting itself to the Times Higher Education appraisal annually. The University of Botswana management congratulates staff for their sterling performance.

University of Botswana Biodiesel Research Project Yields Positive Results



Professor David Norris helping to refuel one of the University trucks. Plans are afoot to consider using B20 [biodiesel] for all the University fleet running on diesel.

The University of Botswana research indicates that Botswana has enough feedstock to yield more than 15 million litres of B20 biodiesel annually, thus slowly turning into reality Botswana's dream to become a biodiesel producing country.

The data collected so far suggests that Botswana had enough feedstock to support a biodiesel plant with a capacity to produce approximately seven tonnes of biodiesel per day. The leading Researcher, from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the University of Botswana Professor Clever Ketlogetswe, said "normal biodiesel is blended with conventional diesel, therefore if we go for 20 percent blend biodiesel (B20), we should be able to produce approximately 42 000 litres of B20 daily [and] this could translate into over 15 million litres of blended (B20) annually."

This was revealed at a tour of a biodiesel processing facility at the University of Botswana on September 21, 2021. Professor

Ketlogetswe said if the country were to go for low blending ratio below of 20 percent, the total volume of blended fuel increase and a significant import bill reduction on road fuel could be easily realised. The University of Botswana has been conducting research under the Biofuels Research Project focusing on three areas - data collection for potential biodiesel feedstock, biodiesel production and analysis or performance testing as well as assessment of potential socio-economic and biodiesel production environmental impacts in the country.

To demonstrate feasibility in the production and use of biodiesel in Botswana, Professor Ketlogetswe announced that since commencement of the project, the UB research team had been running its research vehicle on B100 biodiesel and other blends from B10 to B50. "Today we are extending the use of B50 to one of the University of Botswana trucks," he said.

So far, the vehicle's performance has shown positive results especially in fuel consumption, emission levels and other performance related tests. Therefore, extending the use of biodiesel to one of the trucks was a major milestone for the University of Botswana research project.

"Our intention from here is to engage the University Management to consider using B20 [biodiesel] for all the University of Botswana fleet running on diesel. As we speak, we have enough biodiesel to produce 6000 litres of B20," said Professor Ketlogetswe.

Accordingly, he said the University of Botswana had also been able to develop high level competency in biodiesel production using different feed oils such as animal fats, waste cooking oil and plant oils. Further, there are a number of graduates in the area of biofuels with more expected to graduate soon. The Ministry of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security is sponsoring the project at an amount of P18.7 million for a period of two years from May 2019. For the 2020/21 financial year, the University of Botswana received P2.1 million to cover the three focus areas. In addition, the ministry recently released a total of P1.9 million which the University intends to use to fully equip the biofuel testing laboratory and apply for its accreditation so that it could become a National Testing Centre for biofuel.

"I am delighted to say that the team here has delivered on the outputs set out, as this will undoubtedly be shown in the report," said Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris. He was welcoming Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security, Ms Ellen Richard-Madisa and other national stakeholders for a tour of a biodiesel processing facility.

The Director of the Department of Energy in the Ministry of Mineral Resources, Green

continues to page 3

Dr Bakwena Makes it to Africa and the Diaspora's 2021 Top 30 Trailblazers

University of Botswana Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Economics, Dr Malebogo Bakwena, is among Africa and the diaspora's 2021 Strategic African Women In Leadership (SAWIL) Top 30 trailblazers.

SAWIL is a vehicle for women leaders, entrepreneurs and professionals in Africa seeking to advance their careers through leadership training, executive coaching, entrepreneurship training, masterclasses, board training, mentorship and networking. According to information on the SAWIL website, over 300 quality nominations were received from members of the public, covering at least 15 African countries and the diaspora.

"I would like to congratulate you on being shortlisted for the 2021 SAWIL Trailblazers Awards. Being recognised as a Top 30 Trailblazer in Africa and the Diaspora is no small feat," writes Ms Seipati Mokhuoa, SAWIL Founder and Executive Chairperson, in her email to Dr Bakwena.

Being in the Top 30, qualifies Dr Bakwena for the 2021 Top 10 SAWIL Trailblazers Awards. Consequently, voting for the Top 10 winners opened online on September 10, 2021 and will close on October 30, 2021 at 12 midnight. There will also be a judging process that will culminate with an award ceremony in Sandton, South Africa on November 27, 2021.

"It truly is an honour to have you as a SAWIL Trailblazer Finalist for 2021," notes Ms Mokhuoa to Dr Bakwena. She says the sole purpose of this platform is to celebrate notable persons such as Dr Bakwena in addition to showcasing how rich Africa is with women of calibre. "Perhaps if we show them that qualified, experienced and more than capable women do exist, there will be a sense of urgency towards gender equality, diversity, and inclusion," adds Ms Mokhuoa.

But who is Dr Malebogo Bakwena? She is an economist and an avid researcher, who has undertaken policy-based research projects focused on finding solutions to Botswana's socio-economic issues such as youth unemployment, poverty and gender

inequalities. Dr Bakwena is passionate about empowering and nurturing young people. Over the years she has mentored several young people through engagement in organisations such as the Botswana SOS Children's Village and the Girls for girls (G4G) mentorship programme. In addition, she has been a benefactor of young girls (and boys) in rural Botswana schools, such as the Tutume McConnel College, Leshibitse and Sesung Primary schools.

Dr Bakwena's mentorship is also notable in the several research projects that she worked on with junior researchers not only from the University of Botswana but other local and international universities. Her student mentoring and advisory skills have consistently played themselves out in the successful mentoring of students in the Department of Economics on academic and non-academic matters including close research supervision at undergraduate and graduate (up to PhD) levels. Her record of achievement in project deliverable excellence has resulted in measurable benefits to companies like the Competition and Consumer Authority, the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) the University of Botswana (UB), and the Central Bank of Botswana.

She is currently the head of the Department of Economics at the University of Botswana; Board chairperson of the Botswana Competition and Consumer Authority; Board member of the central bank of Botswana where she is also the chairperson of the Human Resource Committee of the Board. Dr Bakwena also serves as the chairperson of a collaborative Masters and PhD Programme on Core and Electives committee of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) based in Nairobi, Kenya. She is currently a co-editor of the Botswana Journal of Economics.



Dr Malebogo Bakwena

from page 2

BIODIESEL RESEARCH PROJECT

Technology and Energy Security, Mr Midas Sekgabo, explained that as of December 2021, the biofuels research project was at 64 percent against a target of 69 percent. Meanwhile, another implementing partner is

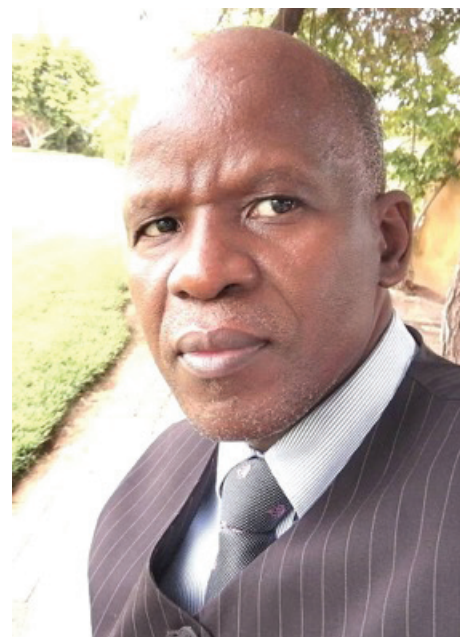
the Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) in the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security. Mr Sekgabo said DAR's focus was on characterisation of plant oils-yields, surveying areas of feedstock yield as well as to come up with distribution maps while the University of Botswana provided

research support and technical expertise. Among the dignitaries who attended the ceremony were Chief Executive Officers of Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority, Mrs Rose Seretse, Engineers Registration Board, Mr Dennis Olatse, and Botswana Oil, Mr Meshack Tshekedi.

TWO UB-UPENN STAFF MEMBERS PROVIDE 17 BATSWANA WITH LOWER LIMB PROSTHESES



Ambassador Craig Cloud during a tour of the University of Botswana robotics laboratories.



Dr Maikutlo Kebaetse

Two staff members from the University of Botswana and University of Pennsylvania recently collaborated to embark on an exercise to provide and rapidly fit a total of 17 Batswana with above-knee and below-knee prostheses. University of Botswana Senior Lecturer in the Department of Biomedical Sciences in the Faculty of Medicine, Dr Maikutlo Kebaetse, collaborated with Professor Timothy Dillingham, Chair - Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Pennsylvania in the United States of America.

Dr Dillingham was invited by the Rehabilitation and Robotics Laboratory based at Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital (Professor Michelle Johnson and Dr. Kebaetse), under the auspices of the Botswana-University of Pennsylvania Partnership. The IFIT devices were a charitable donation from Professor Dillingham, the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at UPenn, and the IFIT company based in Wisconsin, USA. Professor Dillingham also got assistance from his technician son, Mr Rhys Dillingham.

This, therefore, enabled Dr. Kebaetse and Professor Dillingham to provide and rapidly fit eight Batswana with above-knee and nine with below-knee prostheses. In addition, a total of eight prosthetists were trained on and participated in the fitting process. The work was carried out at Princess Marina Hospital, Bamalete Lutheran Hospital, and Maun-based Thuso Rehabilitation Centre.

For each patient, the fitting process took 1-3 hours, and most independently walked home with the device the same day, while the rest needed up to a few weeks of ambulation training before being allowed to take the devices home. Remarkably, almost all patients reported comfort during sitting and walking as a major benefit of the novel device.

Even though it is not a solution for every single patient, the IFIT technology comes with a number of benefits that support the notion that it is feasible for adoption in Botswana. Firstly, it takes a very short time to fit patients with the IFIT compared to weeks of tedious building and readjustments required for traditionally used

rigid sockets.

Another benefit is that IFIT's adjustable socket is superior in that it accommodates limb-size changes due to swelling or muscle atrophy (loss of muscle bulk) besides that each complete device costs between P20 000 (US\$2000) for below-knee and P30 000 (US\$3000) for above knee, which is a fraction of the average cost of lower limb prostheses in Botswana.

IFIT technology thus has potential to significantly help reduce the waiting period for prosthetic fitting in Botswana. Fitting patients within a relatively short time following amputation helps decrease the likelihood that some comorbidities and impairments could worsen or be triggered, and thus the impact of disability on an individual's life.

"We will be following up patients to ascertain their acceptance of the device after 6-8 weeks of use. In future, we plan to submit a research proposal for multidisciplinary re-design of portions of the prosthesis in Botswana, with the aim to help capacitate locals in terms of skills and manufacturing," says Dr Kebaetse.

UB undertakes to assist MACODET turn Manyana into Model Smart Village



Kgosi Kebinatshwene Mosielele and Professor David Norris signing the Memorandum of Understanding to turn Manyana into a model smart village.

The University of Botswana has undertaken to assist Manyana Community Development Trust (MACODET) in its quest to turn Manyana Village into a model of smart village and showcase its rich tourism heritage. The University made this undertaking through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) it signed with MACODET on September 1, 2021.

UB and MACODET's partnership which also includes the University of Toronto in Canada, therefore, aim to promote global partnerships towards establishing a sustainable community driven inclusive economic growth in collaboration with government and other development partners.

Appreciating MACODET initiative, Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, commended Kgosi Kebinatshwene Mosielele for being proactive and taking the initiative to mobilize his tribe to explore practical solutions to the challenges they faced as a community. In addition, he said applauded Kgosi Mosielele for taking advantage of emerging opportunities to improve the quality of life and standard of living for his community.

Professor Norris said the partnership which would also be in collaboration with the

University of Toronto, Canada will facilitate technologies that bring efficiency in planning and coordination of decision-making on any action they wished to undertake. He added that the smart village system also brought internal benefits such as better analysis and control of physical infrastructure, expansion of markets and give communities access to their administration. Professor Norris said MACODET had previously worked with anthropology experts at UB hence he was looking forward to entrenching the community's ability to access all other knowledge assets it required for broad based growth.

"Together we can offer a model for decentralisation and bottom-up economic growth. This is actually your university," observed Professor Norris. In response, Kgosi Mosielele acknowledged the benefits they as Manyana community would derive from their partnership with the University of Botswana. Kgosi Mosielele said Manyana village was endowed with a lot of historical artifacts that could be exploited for the benefit of both the community and the rest of the country.

He said their aim as MACODET was to educate the community on the benefits

associated with the rich history of their area to create more job opportunities. He highlighted the need for the University of Botswana to partner with MACODET to document and package well some of the historical events that happened in Manyana such as the Battle of Dimawe for posterity.

MACODET Chairman, Mr Tlhagiso Sethibe, outlined MACODET objectives, saying the partnership with UB would help them realise their dreams because universities were the centre of of different expertise.

Giving a vote of thanks, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Professor Happy Siphambe, said the UB and MACODET partnership was in line with the new UB strategy and government's desire to empower communities to use their resources productively. Professor Siphambe said the partnership between UB and MACODET would help remobilise and rejuvenate communities given the waning self-help spirit in that people nowadays expected government to do everything for them.

2019 Valedictorian Happy to be Back at UB after Post-graduate Scholarship Offer



Professor David Norris welcoming 2019 Valedictorian, Ms Tania Ballard, to University of Botswana for her Master of Education Degree in Educational Management.

When post-graduate students report for class on September 13, 2021 for the 2021\2022 academic year, among them will be Ms Tania Innocente Bellard who has enrolled for a Master of Education Degree in Educational Management.

"I cannot describe the excitement I had yesterday after arriving in this beautiful country and entering the gates of UB as a student again," said an elated Ms Bellard during a short ceremony Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, organised to officially welcome her to the University of Botswana.

A native of the Praslin Island, the second largest Island of the Seychelles archipelago, Ms Bellard graduated from the University of Botswana as the 2019 Valedictorian. Professor Norris would later during his visit to Seychelles for the Agency for National Human Resources Development [ANHRD] Public Awareness Session, offer Ms Bellard a scholarship to study a Master's Degree of her choice at the University of Botswana. The scholarship covers programme-based tuition fees, book allowance, living allowance and accommodation.

Professor Norris announced the scholarship award at a meeting with the ANHRD Chief Executive Officer hosted in Seychelles on February 25, 2020. The meeting was also attended by the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Human Resource Development, Dr Linda Barallon, as

well as the Head of the Seychelles Institute of Teacher Education and Director, Rosianna Jules. Ms Bellard attended the meeting following a special invitation.

Ms Bellard said she would forever be grateful because such was an opportunity of a lifetime. She thanked Professor Norris for awarding her the scholarship as well as other members of staff who facilitated her admission, registration, travel and smooth settling at UB.

"So far, I am very happy with everything, including accommodation. I am proof that the University of Botswana does value its students' hard work. This is also evident in the various scholarships the university offers students," said Ms Bellard. She further added that "I am happy to serve as an ambassador for UB. I will readily be at the disposal of the University for marketing or any other activities. I am going to make the most of this scholarship".

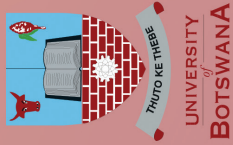
Earlier on when welcoming Ms Bellard back to Botswana, Professor Norris said he was excited that she decided to come back for her post-graduate studies because it meant that the University of Botswana was among highly recognised institutions internationally.

He said Ms Bellard was a true University of Botswana ambassador and that she was exemplary not only in Seychelles but in many other places. Consequently, Professor Norris expressed his desire to visit Seychelles once again to get more Seychellois students to UB.

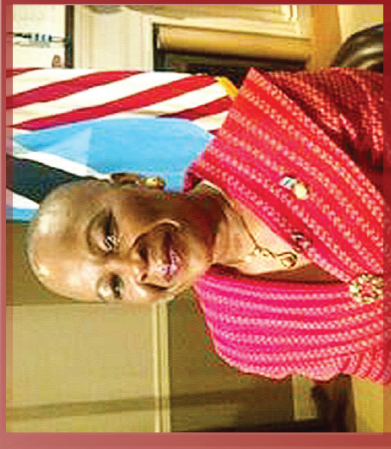
He observed that Ms Bellard made the right choice to come to the University of Botswana because it was recognised by international ranking bodies as one of the leading research institutions globally.

Responding to Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Lily Mafela's question on how other graduates from University of Botswana were doing in Seychelles, Ms Bellard was happy to report that they were all employed and doing well in their different careers. Ms Ballard said the Seychelles government was also happy to have been sending students to the University of Botswana because of its international ratings.

Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Agreement Jotia also encouraged Ms Bellard to make the most of her scholarship by pursuing a thesis that would prepare her for PhD. Professor Jotia also advised her to explore all possibilities and maximize any opportunity coming her way while she was still young. He said Ms Bellard was strategically poised to serve as an ambassador in the University of Botswana's drive to increase its post-graduate enrolment. Professor Jotia further promised to give Ms Bellard all assistance she might need and expressed confidence that given her calibre she would be able to complete her studies without any major hiccups.



MS TEBELELO SERETSE APPOINTED CHANCELLOR OF UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA



Ms Tebelelo Seretse
University of Botswana Chancellor

The public is informed that His Excellency the President, Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, acting in terms of Section 7(1) of the University of Botswana Act, has appointed former Ambassador to the United States of America, Ms Tebelelo Seretse, the Chancellor of the University of Botswana for a period of five years commencing 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2026.

Ms Tebelelo Seretse becomes the sixth Chancellor of the University of Botswana since its establishment in 1982. The position of Chancellor of the University of Botswana fell vacant after the passing on of Ms Linah Mohohlo in June 2021.

Ms Seretse is an experienced leader, having served in different capacities locally and internationally.

Notably, she served as Botswana's Ambassador to the United States of America from 2010 to 2014. As

ambassador, she achieved several milestones in a relatively short period. Ms Seretse organised several missions (trade, education, health, and tourism) to Botswana. Her achievements and dedication were recognised by several organizations and Universities which lead to her being awarded four honorary Doctorates: two in Public Service by Ohio University (2014) and University of Cincinnati (2014), Doctor of Laws from Morgan State University (2012) and a Doctor of Humane Letters from St. George's University (2012).

Ms Seretse has two undergraduate degrees, namely, Bachelor of Arts (Economics) and Bachelor of Science (Accounting) which she acquired in a period of four years at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland in 1978. Thereafter, she obtained a Master of Arts in Economics from University of Cincinnati, Ohio in 1981. She later studied law at the University of Botswana where she obtained her LLB in 1995. Ms Seretse has also participated in many short courses including a six months course on Balance of Payments conducted by the International Monetary Fund. She sat for

the Estate Agents Board Examination in South Africa and passed.

Throughout her academic career, she taught part-time at the universities of Botswana and Cincinnati. She has examined

and written on the case of Excess Liquidity in the Banking System, then a rare phenomenon to Botswana and which ultimately saw the Central Bank becoming a deposit taker of last resort. Ms Seretse has also spoken at numerous conferences, lectures, and universities including Morgan State University, University of Cincinnati, Howard University, University of Syracuse, George Washington University and Boston University to mention a few. She has participated in several round table discussions and presentations such as the Council on Foreign Relations globally.

Ms Seretse has also served as a Member of Parliament from 1999 to 2004 during which she held three Cabinet positions namely; Acting Minister of

Presidential Affairs; Minister of Trade and Industry; Minister of Works, Transport and Communications.

As Acting Minister of Presidential Affairs, she initiated the enlisting of women in the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) and negotiated Partnership Agreements with the United States government to start International Law Enforcement Agency (ILEA) in Botswana. In addition, Ms Seretse was instrumental in advocating for and ensuring that government appointed women into leadership roles in government and the private sector.

As Minister of Trade, Ms Seretse worked tirelessly to ensure that Botswana qualified for the Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) whose objective is to increase trade between African countries and the United States of America. She further signed a Trade Agreement between Botswana and India. She led African Ministers to a successful round of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Talks in Doha in 2001.

Further, she was instrumental in establishing both the Botswana Export Development and Investment Authority (BEDIA) and Local Enterprise Authority (LEA). As Minister of Transport and Communications, she spearheaded several initiatives such as the upgrading of the National Drivers Licenses, the Road Cattle Chasing Project which saw a significant reduction in road accidents related to animals, and the Trans-Kalahari highway which was pivotal in improving relations and trade between Botswana and Namibia. Prior to her political career, she had a distinguished career in the private sector. She worked for six years at Bank of Botswana as a Senior Research Officer. Thereafter, she worked as a finance manager at British Petroleum (BP) for six years. She practiced law as a senior partner at Seretse Attorneys, and continues to be an admitted Member of the Botswana Law Society. Ms Seretse has served on various boards in both the public and private sector, notably Botswana Life (Insurance), Bank of Botswana (Central Bank), Deboswana (Diamond Mining Company), and Denel in the Republic of

South Africa. As Chairperson of Funeral Services Group (FSG), Ms Seretse was instrumental in the company's listing on the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) which made FSG the first listed funeral services company.

Furthermore, she started Phomolong, the first private cemetery in Botswana. She also Chaired RPC Data, an IT Company which was also listed on the BSE. Ms Seretse once served as Chairperson of the Government Labour Advisory Board.

She is also a director of several family businesses. In all these, she has assisted and continues to mentor women and youth to set up their own businesses.

The second eldest of four siblings, Ms Seretse was born on 14 September 1955 to Mr Phenyamere Mazile and Mrs Agnes Chenngwe Mazile (born Mbaakany). She is a mother to three children.

On behalf of the Chairman of Council and the University Community, we congratulate and warmly welcome Ms Tebelelo Seretse as the Chancellor of the University of Botswana.



