

FACULTIES CONTINUE TO POST IMPRESSIVE GLOBAL RATINGS



Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Ishmael Kasvosve.



Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor David Sebudubudu.

The London-based organisation, Times Higher Education (THE), has ranked the University of Botswana by subject area in clinical and health and Social Sciences among Sub-Saharan Africa's top 15 in the 2022 World University Rankings.

The University of Botswana Faculties of Medicine and Health Sciences are ranked 11 Sub-Saharan Africa while that of Social Sciences is ranked number 15. The Faculties of Medicine and Health Sciences showed a significant growth, moving three notches up from position 14 in 2021 to 11 in 2022. Globally,

the University of Botswana moved 115 places up from 628 for the 2021 rankings to 513 in 2022 rankings.

The faculties are assessed based on 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.

The rankings are amongst the world's most prestigious and widely referenced university rankings. The rankings play a significant role in the recognition of qualifications obtained from the University of Botswana because they are renowned for their credibility and comprehensiveness. The results present a positive outlook for the University of Botswana as it continues on its trajectory of research intensity and working on global recognition of all subject areas.

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IMPRESSIVE GLOBAL RATINGS

Commenting on the ranking, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Ishmael Kasvosve, expressed excitement, saying the significant improvements in the THE World Rankings were a result of collective effort by academics, staff and graduate students in the Faculty.

"This achievement could be attributed to a variety of factors. Increasingly, the Faculty is putting focus on research. A number of

academics have successfully attracted external grants and the Faculty continues to nurture impactful collaborations," he said.

Professor Kasvosve further attributed the positive rating to the fact that all the Faculty of Health Sciences' research degrees were publications-based, thus providing 'full circle' training of their graduate students. The Faculty, he noted, emphasised on terminal outputs such as publications and grants in its performance management. "The Faculty is delighted to see some of the interventions starting to bear

fruit," he said.

Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor David Sebudubudu, also expressed his delight at the Faculty's positive rating. "This speaks to the quality of the work we engage in. We have always underrated ourselves as a faculty and University, yet we compare favourably with some of the leading Faculties and Universities on the continent," said Professor Sebudubudu. Consequently, he said the Faculty would, as it was the norm, continue to strive to maintain a favourable rating.

Two Bachelor of Psychology Students take to Radio to Spotlight Mental Health

Two third-year Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology students have taken to radio to shine light on mental health with the aim of breaking the stigma. Rebecca Phaswana and Michelle Olorato Simon feature on Gabz FM's Moments of Zen show with host, Kodjo Musey, between 10am and 11am on Sundays to tackle mental health challenges and educate the public to create awareness and destigmatize mental health.

They speak to UB News about their experience so far but first they introduce themselves:

Rebecca: My name is Rebecca Phaswana. I am a third year student at the University of Botswana pursuing my Bachelors Degree in Psychology and Sociology. For as long as I can remember, I have always been curious about the way people's minds work. From criminals to neurodivergents to neurotypicals, I needed to understand what drives people to think and behave the way they do. For me, studying Psychology was imminent. The more psychology books I read, the more interested I became in issues surrounding mental health. I was astonished at how passive people could be towards anything to do with mental health. That's when I decided that, I wanted to be a mental health activist; to shine a light on the challenges many of us go through on a daily basis but more importantly to break the stigma and start an honest and open conversation about all things mental health.

That is what led me to Gabz FM. Being a part of the Moments of Zen team has allowed me



Ms Rebecca Phaswana



Ms Michelle Olorato Simon

the platform to speak on something I am truly passionate about while helping to educate people all over Botswana. I have never been good at speaking in front of large crowds so radio was a perfect fit for me; not to mention my wonderful colleagues who open my eyes to different things everyday. I am very excited to see where this will lead me but for now I am just happy that Botswana are becoming more cognisant about mental health.

Michelle: My name is Michelle Olorato Simon,

I am 20 years old. I am a youth advocate for young woman and girls. I am a student at the University of Botswana doing my third year, currently pursuing a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and Sociology. I have been assisting at Gabz FM since the month of June 2021 as a way of boosting my future career and to be able to share the knowledge I have on mental health issues. I joined Gabz FM to learn about radio and how information is disseminated on several

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Dr Tshube's ISSP Managing Council Membership

A Boon for Sports Psychology Students



Dr Tshepang Tshube

The appointment of Dr Tshepang Tshube to the International Society of Sport Psychology (ISSP) Managing Council, comes as a boon for his sports psychology students as it will keep them abreast of latest trends in sports psychology. A sports psychologist and senior lecturer in the Department of Sport Science in the Faculty of Education, Dr Tshube says his recent appointment to the ISSP Managing Council will certainly benefit the country and his students because they will have access to current sports psychology knowledge and network of opportunities.

All ISSP Council members are renowned sports scholars and leaders of sports in their own countries. "This is, therefore, a great network and learning opportunity to serve in this committee with the best in the world. I will also get a chance to demonstrate Botswana's knowledge and competence in the global space," reckons Dr Tshube.

Dr Tshube will serve in the Council for a period of five years from 2021 to 2025. As ISSP Managing Council member, Dr Tshube says his role will be to further sport psychology in Africa. "This appointment to the ISSP Managing

Council puts Botswana at the global table for discussion on issues of sports and particularly sports psychology," he adds.

The ISSP is directed by a Managing Council of 15 representatives who meet annually, to oversee the business of the Society and to plan for its continual development. It is an organisation devoted to promoting research, practice, and the development of sport psychology throughout the world. It has been in existence for over 50 years and it is the only worldwide organization of scholars explicitly concerned with sport psychology. Members of the Society include researchers, psychologists, educators, coaches, and administrators, as well as students and athletes interested in sport psychology.

"I would like to congratulate Dr Tshube for this achievement as it puts our Sport Science Department and the University [of Botswana] on the world map," said Dr Mokguthu, Head of the Department of Sport Science in his congratulatory note.

Meanwhile, Dr Tshube, is the recipient of the Emerging Arts/Science and Technology Researcher of the Year award which he received at the 2019 University of Botswana Research Awards. The Research Awards Ceremony is a premier occasion where the University recognises its academics whose research has international impact, whilst remaining locally relevant.

Dr Tshube is an active researcher in southern Africa publishing in areas of dual-career, life skills, mental skills, coach-athlete relations, and elite athlete retirement transition. In addition to his academic work, Dr Tshube is a member of the Botswana National Olympic Committee High-Performance Commission. He provides sports psychology services to team Botswana. He accompanied team Botswana to the 2016 Olympic Games, 2018 Commonwealth Games and several Africa Championships.

He has been awarded the 2013 IOC Graduate Scholar Award, and the 2017 African Alliance Award. His latest projects include the Life Skills for Academic Outcome project funded to over P300 000 by the BTC Foundation. In 2019, Dr Tshube was awarded a 2020 World Anti-Doping Agency research grant of an amount of US\$59,662 (around P640 000) to focus on Anti-Doping Education and Consideration/Intention of Using Prohibited Substances in Botswana, Zambia and Papua New Guinea.

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health issues. My expectations from Gabz FM are to learn and spread information on mental health issues, to assist in raising awareness on issues affecting our community and to learn how radio is run and what it takes to provide reliable and accurate information. My work at Gabz FM has taught me better ways to research and provide information and it has helped me to become aware of issues of cultural sensitivity.

UB News: How long are you with Gabz FM and how did you get to know about the programme and what did you do exactly to feature in the programme?

Rebecca: I've been there since July 2021. I originally sent a proposal to have my own show about mental health but I was told there was one already, but I could speak to Joe if I wanted to join. I'm not sure how long I'll be there for. We will see where this road leads

Michelle: A flexible time plan has been set for my tie at Gabz FM and I discovered about the show through a friend who works at Gabz FM then I had a meeting with Joe to decide if I'm the right fit for the show.

UB News: And you spoke to Joe, what was his initial response and what do you think convinced him to take you in?

Rebecca: He was on board from the get-go. I think he was convinced because what I initially wanted to do was very much in line with what he was already doing.

Michelle: He was honestly excited to have me on air with him, I demonstrated a strong skill of knowledge and dedication.

UB News: That's cool. Last time you were just observing but what exactly do you do during the show?

Rebecca: I had produced that show. Basically, preparing the topic, finding any information and facts we might need and sort of directing the conversation while still allowing for it to

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UKRAINIAN UNIVERSITIES EXPRESS READINESS IN COLLABORATING WITH UB



Ms Liubov Abravitova with members of the University of Botswana Executive Management. She expressed the desire for UB to host a delegation that Ukraine will dispatch for an educational mission to Botswana next year.

A number of universities in Ukraine have shown interest to have exchange programmes and collaboration with the University of Botswana in a number of areas, particularly in medicine, science and technology.

Incoming Ukraine Ambassador to Botswana, South Africa and Mozambique, Her Excellency, Ms Liubov Abravitova, said quite a number of them were ready to sign memoranda of understanding and would soon be sending

their representatives to establish contact. Ms Abravitova revealed this during her brief visit to the University of Botswana on October 20, 2021 where she met with the Executive Management to discuss issues of mutual interest.

She said Ukraine would next year send an educational mission to the region (Botswana, South Africa and Mozambique) hence expressed the desire for the University of Botswana to take advantage of the visit to host part of the delegation. She added that part of her tour of

duty was to establish synergies in education between institutions of higher learning in Botswana and Ukraine in different sectors particularly in renewable energy, medicine, information technology and agriculture.

In response, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Mrs Motsei Rapelana said the University of Botswana was keen on signing memoranda of understanding with Ukrainian universities because it would help enhance its international outlook. Mrs Rapelana said UB was ready to host the Ukrainian delegation and invite other local public tertiary education providers to partake in the process as well. She underscored the importance of student and staff exchange programmes to promote diversity of ideas.

Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Professor Happy Siphambe, also emphasised the importance of international partnerships in that the University of Botswana established an office for international education and partnerships. Professor Siphambe added that without necessarily disadvantaging other study programmes and given that the University of Botswana was a comprehensive university, particular focus would, however, be more on science and technology. He expressed the hope that when the University of Botswana eventually hosts the Ukraine delegation they would be able to identify areas of mutual benefit to subsequently sign memoranda of understanding.



Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Mrs Motsei Rapelana with Ukraine Ambassador to Botswana, Ms Liubov Abravitova displaying a calendar that one university in Ukraine designed to celebrate Botswana.

BDF Optimistic Tapping into SOLTRAIN Initiative Could Reduce its Electricity Bill

Botswana Defence Force (BDF) is optimistic that University of Botswana's quest to help it tap into solar energy through the Southern African Solar Thermal Training and Demonstration Initiative (SOLTRAIN) will help reduce their electricity bill.

"We hope that through this engagement we should be able to make meaningful savings which will in turn add value to our shrinking budgets," said Director General Support Services, Major General Molefi Seikano.

Maj. General Seikano was speaking at a SOLTRAIN Information Workshop on Installation of Funded Solar Water Heaters at the BDF headquarters in Gaborone on October 27, 2021. The workshop, organised by UB's Clean Energy Research Centre, was meant to capacitate BDF on the uptake of solar heating technology. The BDF has been chosen as a launching pad for the initiative, which is funded by the Austrian Development Agency. Highlighting the BDF's expenditure, Maj. General Seikano said for the 2020/2021 financial year, monthly expenditure on electricity stood at P35.6 million while total annual expenditure was P426 million. Consequently, he said the figures demonstrated the huge cost of electricity hence the solar technology translated into considerable cost reductions.

"The savings that are likely to come as a result of solar system will be a big boost to our financial management," said Maj. General Seikano. Although he acknowledged that replacing electricity with solar would not come cheap, he said BDF would in the long-term gain from the SOLTRAIN initiative because of zero bills. In July this year, SOLTRAIN trained 20 BDF technicians in solar heater installations and Maj. General Seikano said should BDF decide to take the offer, installation costs would be further reduced, as they would be utilizing their



Members of the Botswana Defence Force Management Team being shown how a solar heating system is designed and operated.

personnel instead of private companies.

SOLTRAIN IV Project manager, Professor Kevin Nwaigwe, also encouraged BDF to apply for the outstanding 300 000 euros (approximately P3.9 million) available to SADC countries before the current phase ends in December next year. He said it was important for BDF to take advantage of the initiative while the opportunity availed itself because it involved a pool of funds from different governments including Botswana. Professor Nwaigwe added that the target was to install 100 systems throughout the SADC region. Unfortunately, he said there was no quota for the partner countries and if one were to take all the 100 systems, the SADC target would have been met. Therefore, it was critical for Botswana to benefit before application for new projects closes in June next year.

Professor Nwaigwe said for every demonstration system, SOLTRAIN could pay up

to 50 per cent of the total cost and only certified companies which had been trained through the system are engaged. The SOLTRAIN project is an initiative funded by the Austrian Development Agency and co-funded by OPEC. The project, which commenced in 2016 and in Phase IV, is housed at the Clean Energy Research Centre in the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET) at the University of Botswana. It is a partnership project involving universities and institutions in the SADC sub-region (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Mozambique). The aim is to give targeted countries support in transforming from a largely fossil energy supply system to a sustainable supply structure based on renewable energy through training in the design, installation and maintenance of solar thermal systems catering for cooling and heating to reduce strain on the electricity grid system.

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be an actual conversation. Between myself and Michelle, I produce one week while she features on the show. And then the next week we swap.

UB News: By featuring you mean hosting/

anchoring it, like talking on radio?

Rebecca: Yes!

UB News: What do you plan to do after completing your studies?

Rebecca: I haven't quite decided exactly which

path I'd like to take, but I'm very interested in criminal psychology/child psychology.

Michelle: My future prospects are honestly still under works but who knows I might branch into business and venture into the world of humanitarian work.

UB AND BVI MANAGEMENT MEET TO STRENGTHEN STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS



Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris and BVI Director, Mr Andrew Madeswi, in discussion on how to enhance collaboration between their two institutions.

University of Botswana Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, recently met with Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) Managing Director, Mr Andrew Madeswi, to carve more areas of collaboration and strengthen the relationship between their two institutions.

The meeting was held in the University of Botswana Council Chamber during which Professor Norris outlined the University's new strategy which, among other, underlines strengthening of stakeholder relationships and collaborations as critical towards institutional success. He further underscored the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach towards solving societal challenges.

In that regard, the Vice Chancellor said the University of Botswana was on a trajectory of intensifying research development and innovation in collaboration with other research institutions such as BVI to offset the challenges the country was facing especially in this era of COVID-19 and post the pandemic.

Professor Norris further emphasised the need for the University of Botswana to work with industry, noting that with BVI's expertise in the development of livestock vaccine, the two institutions could complement each other in the development of human vaccines and other pharmaceutical products. He observed that

one of the potential areas they could explore together was the development of indigenous medicines which they could ultimately turn into commercial products.

In response, Mr Madeswi expressed the same sentiments with Professor David Norris and emphasised the importance of collaborative research in solving societal problems and growing the industry. Regarding indigenous medicines, Mr Madeswi regretted that they had not been widely appreciated because of stigma but expressed hope that the collaboration between UB and BVI would demystify perceptions surrounding indigenous products.

He mentioned that BVI was established at the height of the outbreak of the Foot and Mouth Disease which ravaged the Beef industry in the 1960s hence it would be an interesting development if it were to transition into and incorporate production of human vaccine especially in the face of life-threatening diseases such as COVID-19.

Meanwhile, also present at the meeting were Acting Deputy Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs, Professor Happy Siphambe and for Finance and Administration, Mr Lopang Mosupi, Director of Public Affairs, Mrs Mhitshane Reetsang and Executive Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, Mr Moeng Segatsho.

UB, BPS Sign MoU to Improve Policing through Research and Training

The University of Botswana has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Botswana Police Service (BPS) to help the law enforcement agency improve policing in Botswana through research and training. Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, signed on behalf of UB, while Commissioner of Police, Mr Keabetswe Makgophe signed for BPS during a ceremony held at BPS headquarters in Gaborone on October 12, 2021.

Speaking at the ceremony, Professor Norris said the partnership came at a time when the country was riddled with a range of security challenges that required a profound response from all stakeholders. "In relation to the security sector, it is commonly established that contemporary national security issues are diverse and the hefty challenge to mitigate them cuts across all sectors of governance," he noted. Professor Norris said it was for that cause that UB found it critical to enter into this agreement, the central purpose of which was to enhance BPS' organisational capacity through research and training of its strategic and operational staff. He said the partnership was long overdue and UB was ready to provide BPS with relevant and quality academic services to embolden its staff's capacity to dispatch their daily responsibilities with ease.

In response, Mr Makgophe said the partnership was indeed a major milestone in law enforcement and a breakthrough for BPS whose mission is, among others, to promote partnerships and collaborative approaches for improved service delivery. He expressed gratitude to UB for undertaking to work with BPS in its journey of transformation. "The signing and implementation of the memorandum of understanding will ensure that BPS remains relevant in the changing landscape of modern day policing and it will also help BPS to align with government's reset agenda," he said.

Mr Makgophe thanked UB for playing a major role in the development of BPS human resource through enrollment of officers in critical programmes such as law and criminal

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Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris and Police Commissioner, Mr Keabetswe Makgophe, signing the MoU between the University of Botswana and the Botswana Police Service.

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justice. He enumerated a number of initiatives that BPS embarked upon to try and improve its service delivery through infrastructural and staff development. "Despite these developments, the reality is that the world

is rapidly changing socially, economically, politically and technologically and so is the crime situation," said Makgophe. Consequently, he observed that such factors reshaped how police organisations did their work.

Whilst technological advancement was a welcome development, unfortunately it had brought along negative side effects such as the shifting of crime into cyberspace hence the BPS needs new threats of cybercrime, human trafficking, money laundering and terrorism, noted the Police Commissioner. Such rapid

changes in the policing environment, said Mr Makgophe, required an agile organisation with adequately trained and proactive officers who were able to quickly adapt and respond to the changing policing demands. "We believe that in collaborating with UB, especially in the areas of human capital development, research and development, monitoring and evaluation, and ICT we have formed the right partner towards the realisation of our aspirations as espoused in Vision 2036," he emphasised.

Director of Sports Reminisces about Lunch with Botswana's First Family



Mr Raj Rathedi with the First Family and Nijel Amos.

Botswana's legendary and former middle-distance athlete, Mr Raj Reuben Rathedi, on October 15, 2021 met with President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi and First Lady Mrs Neo Masisi over lunch to reminisce about the past and future. Mr Rathedi is currently the University of Botswana Director of Sports, Culture and Recreation. Below he shares his experience:

It was such an honour to meet with the President for lunch this past Friday. I was at the same time humbled to have exchanged pleasantries with the First Lady. What made it a more exciting occasion, was the fact that it

happened at the State House and that I was accompanied by Botswana's only Olympic Silver Medallist and world class track athlete, Nijel Amos.

It was a very a relaxed lunch meeting with the First Family where both Amos and I were made to feel so much at home. What made it even more relaxing was when the President remarked in front of the media that both him and myself were mates at the University of Botswana where he used to cheer me on during the BOLESWA Intercampus/varsity Games. I became emotional when he suddenly called me by my original nickname, RHOO!!!



UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA 39th GRADUATION AND INAUGURATION OF THE CHANCELLOR



Date: November 26, 2021
Time: 9:00am

 **LIVESTREAM** <https://www.facebook.com/UbMmadikolo>
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