

UB NEWS

Official University of Botswana Newsletter



in pursuit of academic excellence

A year past but not in vain



2022 was certainly an eventful year especially that it coincided with the University of Botswana celebrating 40th anniversary. As we begin the new year, we highlight some of the major events that captured the nation's imagination and kept everyone on their toes throughout year.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, says it was fitting to celebrate 40 years of the University of Botswana's existence primarily because of how the institution was founded. Unlike many institutions of higher learning in Africa which

were conceived through 'colonial ties', the University of Botswana is an 'indigenous' institution humbly rooted through the generous donations of Batswana who were generally poor but had a great spirit of giving coupled with a great foresight of what a University can do for their future economic emancipation.

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CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

THE LAUNCH OF UB40th CELEBRATIONS



Speaking at an event to commence UB 40th Anniversary Celebrations in Gaborone in June Vice Chancellor Professor David Norris said the forty-year old milestone represents a time to make a shift in life, realignment and readjustment of its priorities. "It is time it introspects and questions itself as to whether it is still playing a truly meaningful role in the society." But he declared with no hesitation that the institution has doubtlessly contributed to Botswana's human capital development.

JULY: Recognising SWANENG 5



The University of Botswana as part of its 40th anniversary celebrations honoured four Swaneng Hill School students and a staff member who contributed to the development of the institution. The five Swaneng youth lost their lives in a car accident while engaging in crowd fundraising exercise for UB in Serowe in 1976. These included Maitumelo Kgari, Magdelene Khumalo, Sarah Mathwane, Elizabeth Masake and male staff member Fantisi Gaothogwe. They were at the time responding to the Motho le Motho Kgomo fundraising campaign to build the university.

AUGUST: Launch of biodiesel project



The University of Botswana officially launched the use of B20 biodiesel that it is producing using animal fats and plant material. The launch took place on August 4, 2022 at the University of Botswana Faculty of Engineering and Technology.

National Science week



The University of Botswana formed part of institutions that participated at the National Science Week and STEM 2022 Festival in Masunga. The week-long festival's theme was: STEM - Advancing Life for Sustainable Development.

SEPTEMBER: EMPLOYEE WELLNESS DAY



The University of Botswana successfully held its first Employee Wellness Day at UB Stadium on September 16, 2022. The event was a joint exercise between the University of Botswana Human Resource Department, Public Affairs Department and Mercantile Insurance Brokers. The Employee Wellness Day afforded employees the opportunity to take a break from their daily tasks to get tips on how to lead healthy lifestyles both physically and mentally.

DRIVING THE KNOWLEDGE

The University of Botswana has made notable progress towards its vision of transforming into a distinctive centre of excellence in Botswana, Africa and globally. This is testified by the results of the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2023 which ranks universities in accordance with international academic benchmarks. This year was the largest ranking undertaken in the 19-year history of THE rankings with a record 2,325 submitting applications to be ranked from 111 countries.

UB has maintained its position as the top ranked university in Botswana and is now sitting at 1018 out of 1,799 universities that were ranked from 104 countries. 526 universities were excluded as they failed to meet the eligibility criteria. This places the University on the cusp of joining those universities that have been ranked among the world's top 1,000 universities and entry into the top tier of global universities.

Africa as a continent witnessed a dramatic improvement with a record total of 97 universities being ranked with 25 being ranked for the first time. Sub-Saharan Africa experienced a significant improvement with 16 new universities being ranked for the first time. The University of Botswana at 23rd position climbed the Sub-Saharan rankings, improving on the previous two years performance and outperforming for the first time the University of South Africa (UNISA) as well as 16 other Sub-Saharan universities which achieved a lower ranking than UB. With the majority of Sub-Saharan Africa's ranked universities coming from two populous countries, Nigeria, and South Africa, UB's ranking is commendable as it represents Botswana's ability as a small state to compete and be visible in Sub-Saharan Africa.

GLOBAL RANKINGS UP

The University of Botswana is now ranked

A BEFITTING CELEBRATION

The University of Botswana Vice Chancellor Professor David Norris has hailed his institution for providing high quality human capital to the country over the past 40 years of its existence.

Why was it necessary to celebrate the 40 years anniversary?

NORRIS: It was fitting to celebrate 40 years of the University of Botswana's existence primarily because of how the institution was founded. Unlike many institutions of higher learning in Africa which were conceived through 'colonial ties', the University of Botswana is an 'indigenous' institution humbly rooted through the generous donations of Botswana who were generally poor but had a great spirit of giving coupled with a great foresight of what a University can do for their future economic emancipation.

What are the key milestones of the past 40 years of the institution?

NORRIS: Without a doubt, the University of Botswana (UB) contributed immensely to human capital development in Botswana. The relatively functional and efficient public service and private sector, which anchored Botswana's transition from a very poor country to a middle class economy, is rooted on the human capital produced by the University of Botswana.

What was the most poignant – the highlight – moment of the celebrations for you?

NORRIS: The most significant highlight for me was celebration of the Swaneng Secondary School learners and driver who perished in a car accident during their noble pursuit of raising funds for the Botswana University Campus Appeal (BUCA). The stories by those who actively participated in the creation of

the University of Botswana had an enduring impression on me.

Were the celebrations all inclusive – did they touch every important stakeholder of the institution?

NORRIS: One can never adequately involve every important and relevant stakeholder in celebrations of this nature – not because of any ulterior motive but largely because of lack of complete information on who should be involved. I continue to be inundated with communication from families and relatives who feel their contributions have not been recognised. We are compiling all this information and will accordingly see how those missed or not accorded due recognition are given proper commendation and respect.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Over 85 000 graduates so far

Since October 1982, the institution has produced over 84 000 graduates in Bachelors, Masters and PhD programmes. Added to this is this year class of 1092 graduates with a total of 915 conferred with Bachelor's degree, 90 Master's Degree, 4 Mphil, 16 PhDs while 67 got diploma. The graduands were from the faculty of Education, Engineering and Technology, Health Sciences and Medicine Science while Business, Humanities and Social Sciences graduation was held on the 21st of October 2022.

Honorary Doctorates

In this year's graduation ceremony the institution awarded honorary doctorates to leading luminaries in Botswana's development. These were awarded to Judge Sanji Mmasenono Monageng, Justice Ian Stuart Kirby, businessman David Ntsimele Magang, and veteran politician Michael Kitso Dingake.



Justice Monageng has served as a Judge of the International Criminal Court, in The Hague, The Netherlands from March 2009 until June 2018. She served as a Judge of the Pre-Trial Division of the Court until 2012, when she was moved to the Appeals Division where she served until June 2018, when her term at the Court came to an end. She also served as the 1st Vice President

of the court from March 2012 to March 2015.

Previously, Judge Monageng served as an expert High Court Judge in the Kingdom of Swaziland (Eswatini) and served as a judge of

Key Highlights...

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the High Court in the Gambia, having started her legal career as a Magistrate in the Republic of Botswana. She is the founder Chief Executive Officer of the Law Society of Botswana a position she held for eight years.

Justice Kirby is the first Motswana to open a private law firm and first citizen judge to be appointed to the Court of Appeal from which he recently retired after 11 years as its President.

Magang's illustrious political career spans 23 years (1979-2002), serving as an Assistant Minister of Finance and Development Planning for five years; Minister of Works, Transport, and Communications and as Minister of Mineral Resources and Water Affairs for about nine years. Magang is the first Motswana to become a township (Phakalane) developer, a classic model of private sector development by unassisted citizens.

Dingake served as a Gaborone Central MP from 1994 to 1999 with his early roots of his political career traced back to when he joined the African National Congress in 1952 and participated in the Defiance Campaign. He joined the University of Botswana in 1982, retired in 1993 as Public Relations Officer.

Worth noting is his visit to the United Kingdom in 1987, where he launched his autobiography titled, 'My Fight Against Apartheid'; translated into Swedish in 1989.

OCTOBER



UB HONOURS MASIRE: PAYING HOMAGE TO A LEGEND

On October 14, 2022, the University of Botswana descended in Kanye to celebrate its 40th Anniversary as well as pay homage to its founding Chancellor and former President of Botswana, the late Sir Ketumile Masire. The ceremony was held at Goora Montshiwa Sports Ground.

From the festivities held at the ground, an entourage comprising former President of

Botswana, Dr Festus Mogae, UB Chancellor, Ms Tebelelo Seretse, Vice Chancellor Professor David Norris, members of the Masire family and some dignitaries proceeded to Goo Motebejana ward to lay wreaths at the grave of Sir Ketumile Masire and former First Lady Olebile Masire. Sir Ketumile is the founding Chancellor of the University of Botswana which was established in 1982.

COMMUNITY SERVICE (CSI)



DELIVERS HEALTH SERVICES TO KGOPE

University of Botswana Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Medicine organized a community service and health fair for Kgope residents in the Kweneng District on October 28, 2022.

The health fair was organised to, among others, raise awareness and to educate the community on public health issues besides donating food hampers to the less privileged members of the society. The UB team also as offered career guidance to students.



VIRTUAL IDEAS EXPO

University of Botswana Careers and Counselling Centre held a Virtual Idea Expo recently to offer students opportunity to share their innovative ideas. The ultimate goal of the Ideas Expo was to empower students with skills to thrive in the knowledge-based economy. The expo was held under the theme: "Charting the Path for Innovative Minds." It attracted stakeholders in the creative and innovative sectors. Student projects ranged from Integrated Biogas Purification System, Smart Traffic Controllers, Vertical Farming and Gene Editing, Lights Automation System and Eco Friendly Cement Produced.



GLOBAL EXPO BOTSWANA 2022

Professor Kevin Nwaigwe of the SOLTRAIN initiative and lecturer in the University of Botswana Engineering Department, speaking in an interview with Gabz FM at the GlobalExpo Botswana 2022 on Green technology, precisely on the SOLTRAIN initiative. He stated that the initiative was a pull away from the common fossil fuels which pollute the environment that add to greenhouse gases. Professor Nwaigwe said the SOLTRAIN initiative was designed such that it met clients of every scale halfway, which was done to promote green technology from household to industry level.



P45.4 MILLION CANCER STUDY

The University of Botswana in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, University of Pennsylvania and Botswana-Upenn Partnership on November 15, 2022 launched a US\$3.5 million (approximately P45.4 million) research study titled Thibang Diphatlha. The University received the research grant from the United States of America National Cancer Institute to test adaptive strategies to close the gap from cervical cancer diagnosis to treatment in Botswana.

The objective of the study is to compare the effectiveness of four adaptive interventions on timely treatment in females with invasive cervical cancer and to evaluate multilevel mechanisms contributing to the effectiveness of adaptive strategies using surveys and interviews with patients and health workers in Botswana.



SOLAR PLANT PROJECT

University of Botswana will soon construct one of the largest commercial solar photovoltaic (PV) power plants ever to be undertaken in Botswana. The 6MW solar plant project planned for construction in 2023 was launched by the Minister of Education and Skills Development, Dr Douglas Letsholathebe, at the University of Botswana on November 16, 2022. Once complete, the plant will meet a larger part of the University's daytime electricity needs to reduce the over P3.6 million monthly bill. Further, the plant will create opportunities for the university to sell excess power to the national grid.



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

University of Botswana students enrolled in the Department of Geology recently completed their eight-week attachment with Kavango Minerals in Tshane in the Kgalagadi District. Kavango Minerals is a mineral exploration company based in Botswana. The female students, Ms Rethabile Kate and Ms

Boitumelo Mokgethi, embarked on an eight-week hands-on training as part of their final year project in Geology. The programme was fully funded by Kavango minerals and offered the two students hands on experience working in a professional environment.

DRIVING THE KNOWLEDGE

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410 globally in the subject specialisation of Clinical and Health Sciences, according to the Times Higher Education Global University rankings for 2023.

This places UB's Faculties of Medicine and Health Sciences at 19th in Africa and 14th in Sub-Saharan Africa. The University also achieved notable rankings in Social Sciences and Physical Sciences with the former being ranked in the top 1,000 universities in the world for the third consecutive year while Physical Sciences appears in the global rankings for the first time.

Breaking down the University of Botswana performance, research output continued its steady increase over the last three years signalling the progress being made towards transforming UB into a research-based university.

The greatest area of improvement in UB was

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UB CREATIVES, ARTS

UB, ALLIANCE FRANCAISE COLLABORATE

The University of Botswana's Department of French and Media studies recently collaborated with Alliance Française, Gaborone to host the first addition of a six-day French film festival on Campus.

The festival was aimed at sharing culture through French cinema to university audiences in southern Africa. It featured films by emerging directors as well as respected and renowned figures in French and African cinema. Selected movies offered a fair geographical and generational spread, covering a wide range of genres, topics and ways of storytelling.

The French Films on Campus (FFOC) initiative was inspired by Tournées and has been developed in partnership with the French Institute in Paris and "Premiers Plans" Festival in Angers. This FFOC's objective was to

bring French cinema to university audiences in Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia.

Prof Phibion re-elected to global body Associate Professor of Music in the Department of Primary Education in the Faculty of Education, Professor Otukile Sindiso Phibion, has been re-elected to represent Africa in the International Society for Music Education (ISME) Board of Directors for the 2022-2024 term.

Professor Phibion was re-elected following a rigorous international competitive process that lasted about seven months. He managed to proceed to the second round of the election as one of the first 18 shortlisted candidates and went on to win the election in the third and final round to become one of only 12

members of the Board of Directors.

ISME is the premier world professional organisation for persons involved in Music Education. It was founded in Brussels in 1953 during a UNESCO-sponsored conference on "The Role and Place of Music in the Education of Youth and Adults".

MOIYA AT WORLD MISS UNIVERSITY

University Botswana student, Anitah Moiya will represent Botswana at the 31st World Miss University pageant on December 21, 2022 in Seoul, South Korea. The 21-year-old, fourth year Psychology and Sociology student will be in Korea for almost a month partaking in preliminary competitions such as head-to-head challenges before the crowning day. World Miss University is an international beauty pageant with almost 70

contestants participating annually since 1986. The Ramotswa native is no stranger to the pageantry world as she has been doing so since the age of eleven. The former Miss UB 2020 joined beauty pageants as a way of boosting her confidence whereupon she fell in love with the stage.

SPORTS:

**2022 UB MARATHON
NOVEMBER 27, 2022**

The Inaugural Annual UB Marathon, held on November 27th as part of the UB 40th Anniversary Celebrations, was organised to help advance the University of Botswana Foundation's mandate of providing scholarships for the less privileged and deserving graduate

students from the university.

MMADIKOLO

The UB mascot –Mmadikolo, a symbol of the spirit of crowd funding (Motho le Motho, Kgomo) upon which the university was established, was the crowd's favourite during the marathon. The marathoners were a



microcosm of Batswana who came to witness yet another fundraising effort by the UB Foundation, resembling the 1976 effort when citizens came together to raise funds for the establishment of the University of Botswana. Proceeds from the marathon will go towards the UB Foundation's Endowment Fund to help with graduate student scholarships.

ATTENDANCE

Tebelelo Seretse, University of Botswana's Chancellor; Grace Muzila, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health; Tuelo Serufho -BNSC Chief Executive Officer; Justice Dipeba

-UB staff member, national athletics team coach, member of the UB Marathon Local Organising Committee

Isaac Makwala -The inaugural UB Marathon attracted international athletes from Kenya, Zambia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. But the highlight of the day was the final epic lap by the Solo Runner aka Isaac Makwala. Makwala is retiring from athletics and did it in style as he took the final 400m lap at UB Stadium alone. The University has honoured Makwala for contributing to the development of sport in Botswana by offering him a scholarship of his choice at UB.

UB RHINOS

University of Botswana women's rugby team, UB Rhinos, received silver medals for second spot after a 5-7 setback against Botswana Defence Force Cheaters in a Women's League Cup final at Wharic Park on September 4, 2022. UB Rhinos proceeded to the final after dominating Savage 5-0 in the semi-finals. Rhinos' semi-finals qualification followed a gold they won after emerging victorious against GRFC Hogs in the 7th series tournament. Rhinos were excellent throughout the games, controlling possession, territory and enjoying full support from their fans.

DEBSWANA, UB PARTNER ON BIODIESEL

Debswana Jwaneng Mine Energy Engineer, Gaenamele Mmoloki Ganamotse, says the biodiesel that the University of Botswana is producing is a step in the right direction towards helping the mine to achieve its strategic goal to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Ganamotse was speaking at the launch of the B20 Biodiesel by the University of Botswana, allaying fears surrounding the use of the biofuel, noting that after using it on some of their equipment, it proved to be very efficient and of top quality. "This to us is another diamond. I have since conveyed these good results to Jwaneng Mine management and the question is when can we have this biodiesel on a larger scale?" said Ganamotse rhetorically.

MOKAILA HAILS UB AUGUST 3, 2022

Botswana's Ambassador to the United States of America, Onkokame Kitso Mokaila, has described his visit to the University of Botswana as an eye opener in that it helped him appreciate the potential the university has to grow Botswana's economy.

"I am highly impressed," said Mr Mokaila in an interview with UB News after a tour of various departments at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology as well as those of Science and Health Sciences on August 3, 2022. "Obviously we don't know much about what happens in our own institutions besides the level of technology being used in these institutions," he added.

ODC, UB COLLABORATE AUGUST 11, 2022

The Okavango Diamond Company (ODC) wants to collaborate with the University of Botswana in the development of home grown technologies in addition to reengineering its processes to grow Botswana government's market share in the global diamond industry.

Consequently, ODC Managing Director, Mr Mmetla Masire, revealed during a visit by a University of Botswana team led by Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, on August 11, 2022 that although technology was more advanced in the diamond cutting and polishing industry, less could be said about the rough diamonds sector.

UB, BEMA SIGN MOU AUGUST 11, 2022

University of Botswana (UB) and Botswana Exporters and Manufacturers Association (BEMA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on August 11, 2022 to foster collaborations to enhance service delivery and knowledge export. Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, signed on behalf of UB while BEMA Chief Executive Officer, Mmantlha Sankoloba signed on behalf of his institution. BEMA addresses issues related to the manufacturing and export in Botswana through empowering members by providing network, trade opportunities and facilitation. It aims at assisting its members to be more competitive both in the local and international markets.



PARTNERSHIPS

UB, CHOPPIES SIGN MOU

University of Botswana and Choppies Enterprise Ltd have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sealing a partnership aimed at identifying and implementing research projects in sectors of mutual interest. Through the partnership, UB and Choppies want to embark on capacity development and skills enhancement in business related areas. Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, Lopang Mosupi, said the UB and Choppies partnership would facilitate research and development in areas of mutual interest.

CONSTITUTIONAL TALK

SEPTEMBER 01, 2022

University of Botswana Department of Law in partnership with Duma FM and Botswana Land Board and Local Authorities and Health Workers Union (BALLHWU) have launched a weekly radio constitutional talk. The purpose of the conversation is to share views and ideas on the operation of the Constitution of Botswana, its strength and weaknesses as well as to enlighten the public on the constitution. Further, it is to assess the adequacy of the constitution with regard to human rights, democracy, equality, freedom and make recommendations with regard to constitutional amendments. The constitutional radio conversations are held weekly on Thursdays at 7pm on Duma FM. The programme is a sequel to President Mokgweetsi Masisi's appointment of a Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Review of the Constitution of Botswana.

UB, UNZA SIGN MOA

SEPTEMBER 03, 2022

University of Botswana has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the University of Zambia (UNZA), paving way for collaborative support in various areas of mutual interest and benefit. The signing marked the culmination of week-long deliberations that covered vast areas that both universities are planning to undertake to benefit their countries. The MoA covers, among others, collaboration on staff and student exchanges. Further, the two universities will make financial provisions and avail more resources for agreed activities.

UB HOSTS UKZN PRO-VC RESEARCH

SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2022

University of Botswana Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, on September 9th, 2022 held a pre-session meeting with University of Kwazulu-Natal (KZN) Pro Vice Chancellor (Research), Professor Salim Karim, to explore possible areas of collaboration in research and other fields.

Professor Karim was to give Keynote address at the UB Foundation Annual Gala Dinner.

Professor Karim was accompanied by UKZN, Assistant Scientific Director, Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim and businessman, Mr Rahim Khan. "The world is now driven by knowledge and if you can't generate a workforce that is ready to take challenges for the next generation, the whole country will struggle," said Professor Karim.



ACCRA TEAM VISITS UB SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

A delegation from the University of Professional Studies Accra (UPSA) in Ghana paid a visit to the University of Botswana. The visit comes at a time when the University of Botswana is undergoing transformation hence insights from other institutions with the same agenda can offer inspiration on how to achieve the university's mandate of creating a future for the knowledge generation. The entourage led by Vice Chancellor UPSA, Professor Abednego Feehi Okoe Amartey were treated to a tour of the university's state of the art library and the renowned UB Campus Indoor Sports Centre.

KTH ROYAL INSTITUTE VISITS

President of KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Professor Sigbritt Karlsson, visited University of Botswana Vice Chancellor Professor David Norris to explore possible areas of collaboration in research, students exchange and other fields.

Professor Karlsson was accompanied by KTH Advisor, Ms Christina Murray, African Project Advisor, Ms Erika Svensson Roussner, Director of Development, Mr Phillip Von Segebaden as well as Embassy of Sweden Policy and Promotion Officer, Ms Cecilia Veloz Roca.

NORRIS MEETS IGI NOVEMBER 15, 2022

UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, November 15, 2022 met with officials from the International Gemological Institute (IGI) to discuss opportunities for cooperation in offering study programmes in gem certification and appraisal. The University in collaboration with IGI will offer courses such as Basic Gemology; Professional Gemology; Diamond Specialist Certification; Jewellery Design; Diamond Grading; Jewellery Business Management, among others. The collaboration seeks to support Government's efforts of economic diversification through enhanced value addition. This will also support job creation and economic empowerment of communities.

CHINA OPPORTUNITIES NOVEMBER 8, 2022

UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, has met with Chinese Ambassador to Botswana to explore opportunities in China.

Professor Norris met with Ambassador Wang Xuefeng on November 8, 2022 in Gaborone to discuss opportunities for collaboration with Chinese universities in areas of research that could benefit Botswana's economy. During the meeting as well, the Chinese Embassy made a commitment to donate P50 000 towards the University of Botswana. Professor Norris expressed gratitude for the gesture. He also updated Ambassador Wang on the establishment of the Innovation Hub that the Chinese Embassy previously supported with a donation of P400 000.



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UNESCO-INDIA- AFRICA HACKATHON NOVEMBER 18, 2022

Eighteen (18) university students among them ten (10) from University of Botswana arrived in New Delhi, India for the UNESCO-India-Africa Hackathon, on November 18th. They took part in the hackathon at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh from November 22nd to 25th, 2022. The main objectives of the hackathon included exploring new technologies/skills, creating potential, driving business innovation, sourcing incubation programs, creating potential startups, branding, creating solutions for social causes and analyzing data to make predictions.

PHDS FOR LIBERIAN SCHOLARS

The Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, has offered the government of Liberia two full PhD and two partial PhD scholarships as part of the University of Botswana's efforts to help Liberia reconstruct its education system. The scholarships were announced during a dinner Liberia's Senior Minister of Education, Professor D Ansu Sonni, hosted in honour of the University of Botswana delegation.

The delegation led by Professor Norris, visited Liberia seeking institutional collaborations and partnerships besides offering expertise to help the Liberian government in transforming the country's education system.

UB, BUSINESS BOTSWANA

University of Botswana and Business Botswana have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sealing their long-standing partnership in pursuit of human capital development. In his remarks, UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, stated that the university's mandate was to prepare citizens for meaningful and sustainable careers. Business Botswana chief Executive Officer, Norman Moleele stated that the signing of the MoU formalised and deepened the partnership between his organisation and the University of Botswana.

UB, AIRBORNE LIFELINE FOUNDATION NOVEMBER 22, 2022

University of Botswana and Airborne Lifeline Foundation on November 22, 2022 signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enable UB researchers to travel to far-flung parts of the country to provide outreach healthcare, teaching, learning and research. Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Professor Richard Tabulawa, signed on behalf of UB while Airborne Lifeline Foundation President, Johnathan Miller, signed on behalf of his organisation. Airborne Lifeline Foundation is a US and Botswana-based philanthropic organisation that provides air transport to Ministry of Health professionals to conduct outreach healthcare visits to remote parts of the country.



UB AND SWEDISH EMBASSY LAUNCH

University of Botswana Department of Education in partnership with Swedish Embassy on November 15, 2022 launched a project called PAMOJA.

PAMOJA is primarily aimed at young people, and it serves as a basis for conversations about today's global challenges, to create a sense of agency and encourage activism. It has been created to inspire young people of today to make the world a better place for all, by telling the story of the anti-apartheid movement and the international solidarity.

Speaking at the launch, Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, said the event was memorable since it reignited an old partnership between UB and Swedish government. Professor Norris said for many years UB benefited from research funding granted to then National Institute of Research (NIR, now ORD) by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

He also said Botswana contributed towards South Africa and Namibia's liberation struggles by offering refuge to many activists



who shaped the direction and tempo of the liberation struggles. The Vice Chancellor further noted that most of the activists were young, high school and tertiary level students whose education was abruptly terminated by the dictates of exile.

However, Professor Norris said it was necessary to reflect on the lessons derived from the engagements and interactions of various actors of the liberations struggle. He added that young people were hope for the future and it was fitting that they should be

DRIVING THE KNOWLEDGE

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citation which measures the times a piece of published research is cited and is a key indicator of research quality and influence. Continuing its impressive rise since it commenced being ranked by the THE, UB's citations have increased by a dramatic 198 percent over the period 2021-2023, (from a score of 13 in 2021 to a current score of 41) clearly demonstrating that UB is directly contributing to the establishment of Botswana's Knowledge Economy.

The Times Higher Education rankings which are amongst the world's most prestigious and widely referenced university rankings, annually rank eleven subject disciplines. Inclusion in the subject rankings is a key performance indicator of the quality of the work being undertaken at UB and plays a significant role in degree recognition globally and are renowned for being credible and comprehensive.



PAMOJA PROJECT IN BOTSWANA

provided with the platform to contribute ideas and formulate innovative solutions to the challenges they encountered in their lives and communities.

"These challenges include GBV, xenophobia, climate change, substance abuse, unemployment and many others," said Professor Norris.

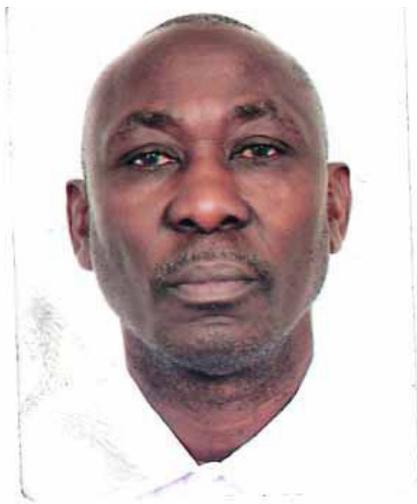
He said the challenges prevented achievement and peaceful coexistence hence it was time to reimagine and embrace alternative future for humanity characterised by equality, openness and inclusiveness, collaboration and cooperation.

For his part, Deputy Swedish Ambassador, Mr Christian Fogelstrom, said PAMOJA Project was designed for the youth to hear their thoughts on solidarity and activism today. He said it was about shared responsibilities towards each other and how youth could work together for the betterment of society.

"It is the starting point for the conversation to challenges faced by the youth," said Mr Fogelstrom.



International Society for Music Education Re-elects Prof Phibion to Board of Directors



Phibion Associate Professor of Music in the Department of Primary Education in the Faculty of Education, Professor Otukile Sindiso Phibion, has been re-elected to represent Africa in the International Society for Music Education (ISME) Board of Directors for the 2022-2024 term.

Professor Phibion was re-elected following a rigorous international competitive process that lasted about seven months. He managed to proceed to the second round of the election as one of the first 18 shortlisted candidates and went on to win the election in the third and final round to become one of only 12 members of the Board of Directors.

ISME is the premier world professional organization for persons involved in Music Education. It was founded in Brussels in 1953 during a UNESCO-sponsored conference on "The Role and Place of Music in the Education of Youth and Adults". ISME's mission is to build a worldwide network of music educators,

to advocate music education globally and across the lifespan, and to foster intercultural understanding and cooperation.

Among Professor Phibion's responsibilities in the Board is to serve as liaison officer for ISME Community Music Activities (CMA). He will also advise the Board on Decolonising and Indigenous Music Education (DIME) programmes. In addition, he is a member of the Pan African Society of Musical Arts Education (PASMAE) which is affiliated to ISME.

Professor Phibion has been a long standing ISME member dating back to 1998. His first stint in the organisation was when he attended an African ISME conference in South Africa (Pretoria) as a sponsored delegate in 1998. Thereafter, he attended some ISME biennial conferences which alternated between different continents.

His continuous and tireless involvement in



PROFESSOR GABATHSWANE TSAYANG



Professor Gabathswane Tsayang diligently served the University of Botswana from 1988 to 2022. She acquired her Bachelor of Arts 'Concurrent Diploma Education' (CDE) in 1981 and a Master of Education Educational Management, Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Botswana in 1987, followed by a Doctor of Education (Educational Management Leadership and Policy Studies) (EdD) at the University of Bristol in 1995.

Later in her career Professor Tsayang was appointed Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Education, spanning from 2008 to 2014. An Associate Professor since 2012 teaching and supervising both undergraduate and graduate studies, with Educational Leadership and

Management and Educational Research as areas of Teaching.

Professor Tsayang went on to publish 17 refereed journal articles, one academic book, one book review, four book chapters and six social studies school textbooks, chaired a consultancy which intended on evaluating the impact of Smart Technology Solutions as proof of concept with many more accolades.

Bidding her last and final year Bachelor of Educational Leadership and Management Education (BLME) students farewell, Professor Tsayang, reminded them that leadership was about bringing out the best in oneself and those that they led. She advised the students to always do what was right and to believe in

themselves.

She emphasised the need to exchange ideas and thanked them for organising a surprise farewell ceremony.

A final year BLME student, Mr. Leggowa Moralo, thanked Professor Tsayang, adding "you are an exceptional lecturer whose commitment to promoting success and excellence in the educational sector is an inspiration. Thank you for all the help, support, guidance you have given us over the years and most of all, your outstanding advice and efforts to bring out the best in us."

Mr Moralo thanked Professor Tsayang for being passionate about teaching future leaders, saying the experience of being in her

TSYANG BIDS UB FAREWELL



classes was engaging and fun.

Associate Professor in Leadership and Management in Education, Professor Bulawa who is also colleague said Professor Tsayang's departure left a huge gap that would be difficult to fill. He implored completing students to continue engaging Professor Tsayang even in

retirement as she was still a well of knowledge and wisdom.

Mrs Malebogo Thokoane thanked Professor Tsayang for the impact she made in the education sector. She thanked the students for organising a surprise fare ceremony for Professor Tsayang.

Phibion

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ISME programmes afforded him an opportunity to gather a wealth of musical experiences through interaction with different international scholars from around the globe. Among his achievements, Professor Phibion developed a Bachelor of Music Education (BME) degree programme for the University of Botswana. He has been an external examiner of the University of South Africa (Unisa), North West University, University of Pretoria and the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, all at Masters and Doctoral levels respectively.

He was also an External Examiner for all Botswana Colleges of Education for three years. Through his wealth of musical experiences, Professor Phibion has managed to implement the University of Botswana's Internationalisation and Partnerships Policy.

Thus, he established reciprocal exchange programmes with the following institutions: University of Pretoria, University of Botswana, Unisa, Kenyatta University, Africa University in Zimbabwe and the University of Jyväskylä, with the latter funding the exchange programmes. He also established an exchange programme with Chaoyang University of Technology in Taiwan in 2018.

MOTHO LE MOTHO KGOMO



The year 1982 marked a historical milestone for education in Botswana. It was an innovative era and the birth of a voyage that ordered Botswana into an honourable progression of education, with an aim to yield human knowledge and human resource for development of the country.

It was the country's first institute of higher education, however, it began life as a colonial Catholic vocational training university in 1946, before becoming a joint, cross-national higher education institution in 1966 for Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

Botswana, among the poorest nations in the world with a spirit of self-reliance started the One Man, One Beast (motho le motho, kgomo) movement to fund the

construction and development of the institution of higher learning. Botswana and other stakeholders made contributions of all types including cattle, cash, grain, eggs, etc towards accomplishing the set target of one million rand. The One Man, One Beast (motho le motho, kgomo) movement endures today on the university's main statue located in front of the new library. Since the university became self-sufficient in 1982, it has become a key player in the country's development and has maintained its combination of high academic standards and social progressiveness. The University has progressively grown from comprised few old model buildings, to exquisite landscape and buildings inclusive of sports arenas, developed library and swimming pools among many.

The university has since expanded to six faculties, increment in intake of students and a sharpened curriculum. UB has accumulatively produced 83 882 graduates to date from all its branch Gaborone, Maun and Francistown from the population of 267 and one Gaborone branch. It boasts of PHDs, degrees and diploma courses. The inaugural Chancellor is the Late Former President Sir Ketumile Masire who held the position from 1982 until 1998 when he retired from the presidency and passed the baton to former President, Mr Festus Gontebanye Mogae. The Chancellor seat continued to be entrusted with Men and women of diligence consequently to the current Her Excellency Ambassador Ms Tebelelo Mazile Seretse