

AUGUST 2023



# UBNEWS

*In Pursuit of Academic Excellence*

Your Institution of Choice

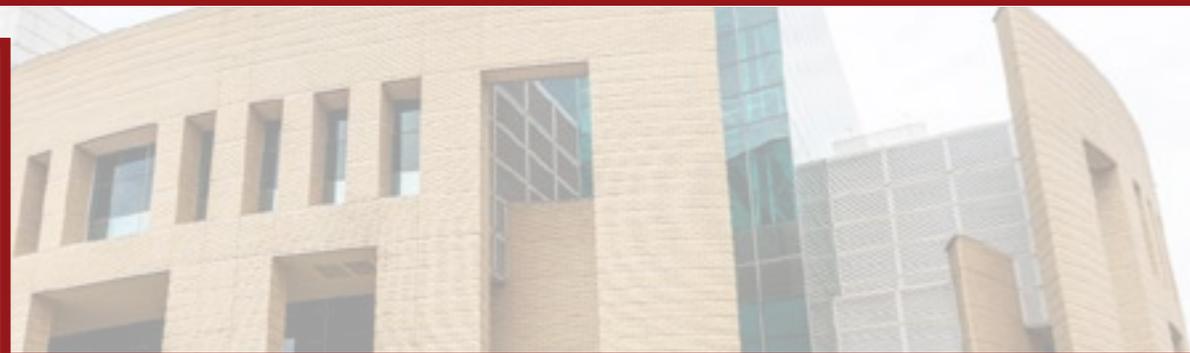
## Botswana to Benefit from Nigeria's P342 Million Bioinformatics, Genomics Sequencing Laboratory

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

One of the strategic goals of the University of Botswana (UB) is to become a research-intensive institution of higher learning. It is against this background that this edition of the UB News seeks to highlight some of the efforts the University is making towards realising the goal of being a research-intensive institution.

As you take to reading this newsletter you will come across articles that explore how UB is making strides towards being part of those universities that foster innovation through cutting-edge research initiatives. One of the key examples is the Degree Show organised by the Department of Industrial Design and Technology under the theme - Design and Enterprise Development: A Key to Economic Diversification.

The Degree Show presents a perfect opportunity for UB to showcase innovative prototypes, products and services designed and developed by students. These prototypes and products have the potential to make a significant impact on various industries if developed further to commercialisation stage.

Another key highlight in this issue, are conversations around collaborative ventures that UB continues to engage in with other research institutions and universities across the globe which underline the importance of interdisciplinary collaborations in

university settings. Read more on this in the article titled Botswana Poised to Benefit from Nigeria's P342 Million Bioinformatics and Genomics Sequencing Laboratory. The envisaged collaboration underlines how successful partnerships between different academic departments, as well as industry and other institutions can positively impact Africa as a whole.

Not only is UB a place of academic excellence and research but a place where sports, recreation and culture thrive. Learn all this as you read about the UB Marathon being a certified Comrades Marathon qualifier.

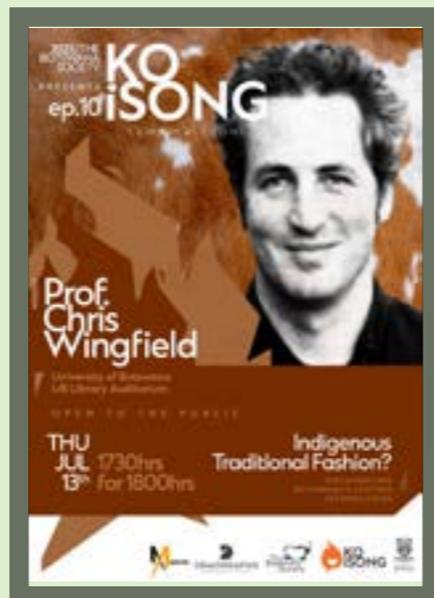
We also feature an article about UB boxer winning big at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Botswana Sports Awards. These articles attest to the science behind university sports innovation and how universities are integrating sportscience and technology to enhance athletic performance. Thus, not only is UB investing in state-of-the-art sports facilities, the impact of these facilities on the overall student experience and development of athletes is bearing fruit as well.

Take time to go through this issue of UB News. I hope you will find the articles interesting and refreshing to read.

Thank you!

*Thomas T. Mhoma*

## Highlights...



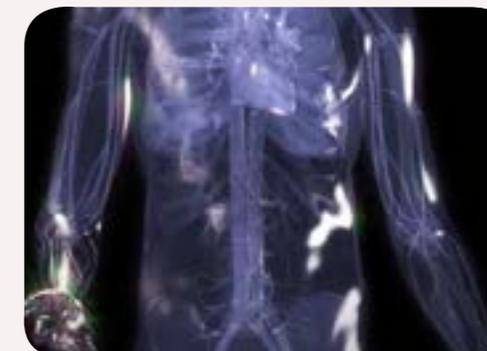
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*Botswana Poised to Benefit from Nigeria's P342 Million Bioinformatics and Genomics Sequencing Laboratory- See page 6*

# Professor Norris Calls for Industry investment to Shore up University of Botswana Innovations

University of Botswana (UB) Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, has called upon those with financial capital or financial muscle to invest in some of the innovations that the University continues to embark on.

Professor Norris made the call welcoming guests at this year's University of Botswana Degree Show held at the UB Campus Indoor Sports Centre on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The Show is held annually as an exhibition that accords the University an opportunity to profile the high standards of design works that students undertake during the last two semesters of their degree programmes.

It showcases innovative prototypes, products and services designed and developed by final year Design and Technology and Industrial Design students. Most importantly, it offers designers an excellent networking environment with potential employers,

investors and industry.

Consequently, held under the theme, "Design & Enterprise Development: A key to Economic Diversification", the show speaks directly to the value that government attaches to innovation and entrepreneurship as a gateway to economic growth. Professor Norris observed that, even though some prototypes might not be ready for commercialisation, with few iterations and refinement they had potential to be readied for commercialisation.

"Though the innovations may not be of high tech, I am particularly happy that they hold potential to serve the needs of the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and resource challenged farmers," said the Vice Chancellor.

Speaking on the backdrop of the University of Botswana having launched its Innovation Centre early this year and Government's mindset change campaign, Professor Norris

underscored the need to understand the role of an institution of higher learning in enhancing or stimulating economic growth.

"Our young people are highly creative and with the right support they can certainly assist in the industrialisation of our country and beyond the borders," he reckoned.

To that end, he added that the University of Botswana has benefitted from the Department of Industrial Design in its cost reduction measures by entrusting learners with jobs that the University would have otherwise outsourced.

Some of these include the UB Indoor Sports Centre stage, campus flags, the University exhibition stalls and the branding of some of the conferences hosted by the University. Professor Norris also highlighted that in an innovation economy, knowledge was applied together with innovation and entrepreneurship to drive economic growth hence the need for a new mindset. ■

# Advancing the Cause for Redesigning and Reshaping Botswana's Industrial Future

In its continued drive to redirect Botswana towards industrialisation of its economy, the University of Botswana (UB) through the Department of Industrial Design and Technology hosted this year's annual Degree Show under the theme - "Design and Enterprise Development: A key to Economic Diversification".

Speaking at the Show held at the UB Campus Indoor Sports Centre on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Assistant Minister of Education and Skills Development, Ms Nnaniki Makwinja said the theme resonated with Botswana's Vision 2036

pillar of achieving prosperity for all through transformation and innovation for sustainable economic development. The Degree Show is an annual event that showcases innovative prototypes, products and services designed and developed by final year Design and Technology and Industrial Design students. Most importantly, it offers designers an excellent networking environment with potential employers, investors and industry.

Ms Makwinja noted that such efforts edified the creation of a knowledge-based economy and development of Botswana's

manufacturing and service sectors. The Assistant Minister further observed that the first-generation prototypes on display were a gateway to scalable enterprises, growing the manufacturing industry and additionally contributing to Botswana's Gross Domestic Product.

Delivering his keynote address, Okavango Diamond Company Managing Director, Mr Mmetla Masire, underscored the importance of mindset change in achieving success. Mr Masire said such an alignment at individual level elevated to company level which underpinned Vision 2036 and attainment of its ideals. He said alignment to Vision 2036 was key and encouraged Industrial Design students to play an active part in making sure the vision was realised. He added that the prototypes were a clear indication of the available opportunities in the manufacturing and production sectors.

In his welcome remarks, Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, highlighted that such events bore testimony to the creative minds of students brimming with ideas fuelled by curiosity and the desire to push boundaries of conventional thinking. Professor Norris expressed his delight, stating that the prototypes had the potential to solve the needs of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and resource challenged small-scale farmers.

Meanwhile, the best design prototype prize went to Mr Ompatile Malobela, who was awarded a scholarship by the Vice Chancellor to pursue a master's degree programme at UB. Mr Licon Magosi took position two, while third position went to Mr Botho Chabaditsile. The criteria for judging was to identify the most viable prototype with societal impact, appealing aesthetics, functionality as well as sustainability. ■



Minister Makwinja says initiatives such as Degree Shows edified the creation of a knowledge-based economy and development of Botswana's manufacturing and service sectors.



Professor Norris says young people are highly creative and with the right support they can assist in the industrialisation of Botswana's economy and the rest of Africa.

# Botswana Poised to Benefit from Nigeria P342 Million Bioinformatics and Genomics Sequencing



Professors Billy Tsima and Daniel Motlhanka discussing ways through which Botswana can benefit from NIPRD.

Botswana through a partnership between the University of Botswana (UB) and Nigeria's National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD) is poised to benefit from one of Africa's first bioinformatics and genomics sequencing laboratory.

NIPRD Director General, Dr Obi Peter Adigwe, said the institute was in the process of finalising a US\$26 million grant (approximately P342 million) from the Global Fund to set up one of the region's first bioinformatics and genomics sequencing laboratory.

Dr Adigwe who met with UB management to discuss possible ways and areas of collaboration between the two institutions, said one of the agreements for the grant was assurance that the laboratory would be used by other institutions across Africa.

Therefore, he said NIPRD identified Botswana as one of the first countries in southern Africa that should benefit from the laboratory through collaboration with the University of Botswana given its wealth of expertise in the science field. The other is South Africa.

Dr Adigwe added that the University of Botswana was identified for the sole reason that in the process of developing "African solutions for African problems", NIPRD always

looked for like-minded partners across Africa with the potential to add value to the projects they undertake. The motivation to choose the University of Botswana, therefore, he said was also borne from the desire to have presence in every region in Africa in that NIPRD currently has presence only in North Africa where in partnership with Egypt, were developing Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) which is the most important part of developing any medicine. The other partnerships are with four (4) of the 16 countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region as well as Rwanda and South Sudan in East Africa, said Dr Adigwe, adding that they were also in the process of working with Kenya and Tanzania.

"In southern Africa we have already established some partnerships with South Africa but I told my team that it's not enough, we need Botswana," said Dr Adigwe. He noted that Botswana was chosen because of its political pedigree and its ability to develop capacity in creating a value chain for people to benefit from the mining sector.

Dr Adigwe underscored the need for Africa to develop its own API manufacturing capacity following lessons learnt during COVID-19 when some developed countries resorted

to vaccine nationalism. Countries such as China and India who are the world's biggest API producers banned its export to Africa as demand for their people outstripped supply. To that end, Dr Adigwe said NIPRD was in the process of setting up one of Africa's first nanotechnology laboratories to look into drug discovery and phytomedicinal development.

NIPRD is a government parastatal under Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health. The institute has been charged with the responsibility for research and development of drugs, vaccines, phytomedicines, commodities, and diagnostics aimed at improving sustainable access to safe, affordable and high-quality healthcare. NIPRD also undertakes activities relating to capacity building, policymaking, data collation, drug distribution and the development of contextual partnerships that can expedite access to healthcare. NIPRD was designated a Center of Excellence (CoE) in the African Sub-region in research and development of drugs, vaccines, phytomedicines, and diagnostics towards improving the health and well-being of Nigerians and mankind by the African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation (ANDi) in 2011.



Examination of human anatomy.

The institute is looking for Pan African partnerships to help build capacity in Africa so that the continent does not have to rely on the west for scientific interventions. The University of Botswana which has been identified as one such ideal partner in Southern Africa is currently involved in the development of vaccines for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Lumpy skin disease as well as drug from medicinal plants.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Norris, acknowledged the great strides that UB had made in testing plant materials but regretted that such had not gone beyond vaccine development. He further lamented that Africa lost a lot of Intellectual Property "because we test all these plant materials but don't get involved in the value chain". Consequently, he said collaboration with NIPRD will help in building capacity that will not only benefit Botswana but the rest of Africa. Professor Norris reckoned that development of FMD vaccine was very important to protect the beef industry given that beef contributed significantly to the country's economy as well as the livelihoods of Botswana.

## Research Methods Training Workshop Participants Encouraged to Collaborate



University of Botswana Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire.

University of Botswana Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire, has encouraged research methods training fellows to collaborate on research to share

skills, increase productivity, efficiency and research quality.

Professor Masire was speaking at a workshop hosted by UB Department of Sociology in partnership with Social Science Research Council (SSRC) at the Grand Palm Hotel on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Professor Ramogola-Masire further advised the fellows to cooperate and engage with their mentors and each other on research projects. She also highlighted that research had to be supported with funds and best instruments to address challenges faced by societies.

Meanwhile, Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor Emmanuel Botlhale, also encouraged the fellows to be creative and innovative in the way they planned their research projects. He said Africa could only achieve its aspirations through research to improve the quality of lives as well as offset challenges faced by the continent.

Programme Director at the African Peacebuilding Network (APN) and Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa (Next

Gen) at the SSRC, Dr Cyril Obi, said APN supported African scholars and practitioners in African institutions of higher education as well as regional and national organisations to produce high quality and globally visible research on African peace building.

He also noted that the Next Gen sought to strengthen higher education in Africa by offering a sequence of fellowship and training opportunities to PhD students to enable them to undertake research and progress steadily towards completion of their doctorate degrees. University of Botswana Department of Sociology, Professor Gabriel Faimau, also noted that the goal underpinning the workshop was to help fellows to refine their proposals and research designs before heading out to the field.

The aim, he said, was to develop their doctoral dissertations to produce high quality research-based knowledge. He also encouraged mentors to share their expertise, experience and insights to support the fellows to reach their goals including those of the programme.

## Prime Minister Dlamini of Eswatini Pays his Alma Mater Surprise Visit



Prime Minister of ESwathini Mr Cleopas Sipho Dlamini

The Prime Minister of ESwatini, Mr Cleopas Sipho Dlamini, on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 paid a surprise visit to his alma mater, the University of Botswana (UB).

Mr Dlamini who was appointed ESwatini Prime Minister by King Mswati III in 2021, is the alumnus of the then University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, the predecessor to the universities of the respective countries, presently National University of Lesotho, University of Botswana and University of Eswatini.

He was in Botswana attending the US-Africa Business Summit held in Gaborone from 11-14<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Dlamini was previously Eswatini's Chief Executive Officer

(CEO) of the Public Service Pension Fund. About his impromptu visit to the University of Botswana, Mr Dlamini said he was excited to be back at his alma mater after he completed his studies more than 40 years ago. He added that he was looking forward to working with the university and promised to arrange a proper official visit soon. To that end, the University of Botswana prides itself as the only university with three of its alumni simultaneously serving as heads of state and government. The other two (2) are President of the Republic of Botswana, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi and Vice President, Mr Slumber Tsogwane. ■



Prime Minister Dlamini in front of the UB Administration Block.

## Central University of Technology (CUT) Vice Chancellor Leads High-Powered Delegation to UB

A high-powered delegation from the Central University of Technology (CUT) in South Africa, on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 visited the University of Botswana (UB) to further strengthen existing ties between the two institutions.

The purpose of the visit was to, among others, introduce CUT's newly appointed Vice Chancellor, Professor Pamela Dube. Most importantly, the visit was intended to further strengthen the existing relationships between the two institutions.

It was not the first time delegations from the two institutions had visited each other. The first was in 2018 when a University of Botswana delegation led by Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, visited CUT campus in Bloemfontein to seek collaboration.

The two (2) universities subsequently entered into a three-year agreement through which they committed to jointly leverage their capabilities in promoting scholarly activities

and international understanding in different areas of academia and entrepreneurship. To kick start the process, officials of the two institutions agreed to seek collaborations in areas of engineering and medicine.

Since then, there has been a series of a visits hence today's visit is meant to continue conversations regarding these engagements to determine how best to implement agreed initiatives. Part of this was to explore available opportunities on internationalisation matters such as co-funding applications, student exchange COIL / virtual exchanges.

Accompanying Professor Dube were Deputy Vice Chancellor-Research, Innovation and Engagement, Professor Alfred Ngowi, Professor Lize Theron, Faculty of Engineering, Professor Freda van der Walt, Faculty of Management Sciences - (Hospitality and Tourism) and Dr Paseka Mollo, Faculty of Humanities (Partner week activities, External examiner conversations).

Others were Dr Lebogang Mogongoa - Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences, Mr. Leolyn Jackson, Director-Centre for Global Engagement as well as Ms Refilwe Molelane, Deputy Director-International Academic Partnerships.

During their stay at the University of Botswana, they met with the University management as well as visited the faculties of Engineering and Technology, Health Sciences and Business. ■



The CUT tour included a visit to the University of Botswana Innovation Centre

# MORALANE: University of Botswana Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives

## *Building Future Leaders Today*



*One of the local choirs entertaining the audience.*



*Moralane Primary School pupils listening to the proceedings*



*Some of Moralane Primary School teachers preparing for tutorials.*



*UB staff members from the Faculty of Education on their way to offer the pupils some tutorials.*



*Some parents of Moralane Primary School pupils who came to support their children.*



*Moralane Primary School pupils during one of the tutorials.*

## US Ambassador Pays UB Vice Chancellor Courtesy Visit to Strengthen Existing Relations



Mr Howard Van Vranken in conversation with University of Botswana Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris



Professor Billy Tsima, Dr Gaone Retshabile and Professor Wato Mpoloka listening to the proceedings of the day.



Some members of the delegation listening enthusiastically to the discussions

United State of America ambassador, Mr Howard Van Vranken paid University of Botswana (UB) Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris courtesy call on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 to strengthen existing relations in areas of research, training and partnerships.

Giving welcome remarks, Professor Norris said UB had benefitted immensely from research collaborations and partnerships with US universities. He said UB was a comprehensive University with over 19 000 students and offered programmes that were relevant to current and future generations.

He also highlighted that innovation and research with impact to society were the main focus of the University to transform lives of the people. He added that they had number of collaborations with US universities such as UPen, Harvard, Rutgers and university of Wisconsin in areas of health sciences. He further noted that sustainable resource management, water management, water conservation, water recycling, renewable

energy and entrepreneurship were focus areas of research for the University.

Meanwhile, USA Ambassador to Botswana, Mr Vranken said the US Government recognised the value and role played by UB in providing education and research that impactful to society. He said the goal of the US government was to make the world prosperous and safe. He added that they valued the rule of law and democracy across the world as well as human rights and their contribution towards attaining freedom.

He also said US had a long history of working with the Botswana Government on health care issues. He also said over the past four years they invested over a billion Dollars on healthcare projects in Botswana and that has helped the Government achieve stunning results. He further noted that the US Government recognise the need for the Botswana Government to diversify the economy to a remarkable prosperity. He also highlighted that the US was ready to partner with UB on research project of renewable

energy and climate change.

For her part, University of Botswana, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire expressed gratitude towards the US Government's commitment to assist the Government of Botswana and UB through funding research projects as well as on collaboration. She said that would ultimately contribute towards assisting Botswana to realise its Vision 2036.

The USA ambassador's entourage comprised Associate Director for Science, CDC Botswana Country Office, Dr Stacie Greby, Acting Director, Centre for Disease Control (CDC) Botswana Country Office, Ms Lisa Esapa, Established Opinion Leader Specialist, Public Diplomacy Section, Ms Naomi Tshosa, Public Affairs Officer, Ms Melissa Cotton, US Health Attaché to South Africa and Southern Africa Regional Representative, Dr Sophia Siddiqui.

## FET Hosts 40 Secondary School Students for Youth Development Innovation Boot Camp

University of Botswana (UB) through the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET) hosted 40 students from various secondary schools across the country for the Youth Development Innovation Boot Camp. The purpose of the boot camp was to equip the participants with entrepreneurial skills and nurture their mindset of innovation and exposure to industry-relevant skills.

The Youth Development Innovation Boot Camp is part of a series of research activities by the University of Botswana. Dr Phillimon Odirile, received last year under the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) grant programme, Partnerships for Innovative Research in Africa (PIRA). The research under a scaling grant of approximately P2.2 million (US\$200 000), that Principal Investigator. Dr Odirile is collaborating in the project with Michigan State University (MSU) and Infers Group in a project titled: US-Botswana Collaborative Research on Youth Empowerment and Education: SMART Infrastructure and Mobility Innovations for Resilient Community Health.

Priority areas for the project are Culture, Education and Youth Empowerment. Dr Odirile as principal investigator from University of Botswana, is collaborating with Infers Group Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Mr Abraham Mamela. Infers Group is a youth company whose core services is to create ecosystems, networks and smart cities that support innovation through a project economy, using a youth-employing-youth model designed to facilitate the development of generative youth owned enterprises.

According to Dr Odirile, the initiative was aimed at empowering young people from the ages of 15 to 24 years. He added that during the boot camp, participants were guided by experienced facilitators through



Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET) building

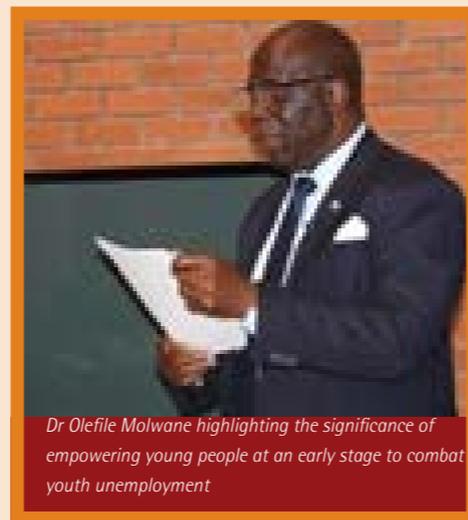
a series of activities and interactive sessions, that exposed them to the latest trends in innovation and were engaged in the real-world problem-solving scenarios.

"We will provide our young participants with a unique platform to explore their passions, hone their skills, and develop an entrepreneurial mindset that will serve them well throughout their lives," said Dr Odirile.

In his opening remarks at the official opening of the boot camp, Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Dr Olefile Molwane, highlighted the significance of empowering young people at an early stage to combat the rise of unemployment among youth.

"It should be noted that youth unemployment and skills mismatch has been a great concern to the Government of Botswana with inferences and implications to the education and training providers such as the University of Botswana," emphasised Dr Molwane. Dr Molwane said the initiative resonated well with the University of

Botswana's strategy of Creating a Future for the Knowledge Generation, which highlights teaching and learning, research, innovation, and engagement as a pivotal to its mandate.



Dr Olefile Molwane highlighting the significance of empowering young people at an early stage to combat youth unemployment

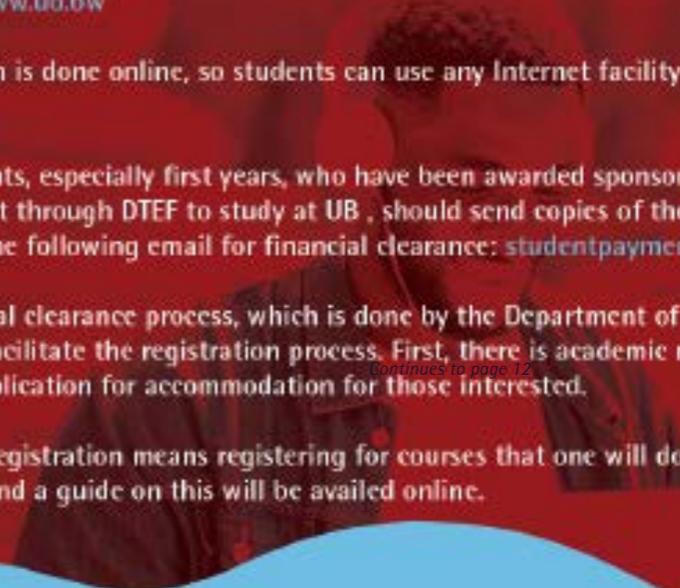


UNIVERSITY  
BOTSWANA



# NOTICE ON REGISTRATION FOR SEMESTER 1 OF 2023/24

- 🕒 Registration for Semester 1 of 2023/24 will open on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- 🕒 Registration guidelines will be availed through a link on the University of Botswana website: [www.ub.bw](http://www.ub.bw)
- 🕒 Registration is done online, so students can use any Internet facility available to them to register.
- 🕒 New students, especially first years, who have been awarded sponsorship by the Government through DTEF to study at UB, should send copies of the sponsorship offer letters to the following email for financial clearance: [studentpayments@ub.ac.bw](mailto:studentpayments@ub.ac.bw)
- 🕒 The financial clearance process, which is done by the Department of Financial Services, is meant to facilitate the registration process. First, there is academic registration, then there is application for accommodation for those interested.
- 🕒 Academic registration means registering for courses that one will do during the semester, and a guide on this will be availed online.





Contact Department of Academic Services at:  
(+267) 355 4197  
Email: [sethibei@ac.ub.bw](mailto:sethibei@ac.ub.bw)

*There will be other numbers/emails to contact once registration is open!*

*...in pursuit of academic excellence*

# Shanghai Business School Explores Collaboration Opportunities



Shanghai Business School

Shanghai Business School President, Professor Shen Daming paid University of Botswana (UB) Acting Vice Chancellor, Mr Dawid Katzke courtesy visit on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023 to explore possible areas of collaborations.

Speaking during the meeting, Mr Katzke said UB recently developed a new exciting strategic plan that would be implemented with the aim of transitioning the University of Botswana to a High Performance Organisation (HPO). He also said the UB Business School was critical towards fulfilling the needs of the country and generating third-stream income.

He also noted that on the approved new structure the business school would be independent from the faculty as it was the case with universities that had established

successful business schools. He added that UB was keen to learn from other higher education institutions such as Shanghai Business School to develop its business school in the new structure.

In response, SBS President, Professor Daming said Shanghai University focused more on business and commercial school. He added that Shanghai enrolled over 200 overseas students across the world to participate in Bachelor's Degree programmes, Masters and PhD. He further noted that they wanted to collaborate with UB on areas such as student exchange programmes, staff training, hotel and hospitality management.

Professor Daming also highlighted that Shanghai University focused on cultivating international business officials in that

each year they trained over 7000 officials from overseas including from Botswana. Furthermore, he said they wanted more Botswana students to apply for scholarships for degree programmes and study at the Shanghai Business School. He further noted that currently they were in partnership with more than 108 universities across the world.

For his part, UB Deputy Vice Chancellor, Teaching and Learning, Professor Georges Ekosse indicated that both institutions had a lot in common and they were looking forward to signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Professor Ekosse also added that the collaboration would help Botswana to accelerate towards achieving a knowledge based economy by learning from China which was technologically advanced.



# University of Botswana Marathon Certified Comrades Marathon Qualifier

Some of the participants of the UB Marathon

This year's edition of the university of Botswana (UB) Marathon slated for the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023, will, among others, serve as a Comrades Marathon qualifier and other major international meets. The marathon which is in its second edition, is an annual event organised by the University of Botswana

Foundation. As a consequence, being a certified Comrades Marathon qualifier, this year the Foundation has a target of registering at least 3000 runners. Categories range from 42.2km, 21.1km (half marathon), 10km race to 5km fun run for families.

Apart from fundraising, one of the objectives of the event is to help combat the scourge of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the country. Therefore, the University as the nation's highest learning institution with competence across fields, will use this

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## UB Marathon Certified...

◀ from page 17

opportunity to create public awareness on challenges associated with unhealthy lifestyle choices. It will further use the event to raise funds for the UB Foundation Endowment Fund which is used for graduate scholarships.

In the lead-up to the marathon, the University has organised a series of activities as a build-up towards the main event on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023. These include community activations, and registration drives, all at strategic points across the country.

These will provide an opportunity for as many health enthusiasts, the public, corporate stakeholders, students and staff from across the nation to register for the marathon. Further, it will cement relationships with various stakeholders including UB's abundance of its alumni community.

"The University is not only a place of academic pursuits but also a community where we care deeply about the holistic development of people. With the rise in non-communicable



Vincent Ndoku and Olefile Koagile at the UB Marathon

diseases or NCDs in the country, it is essential that the University creates opportunities to nurture and support the physical health of all those in its ecosystem, empowering all to

thrive," said the Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris. ■

## UB Boxer Wins Big at the 42nd Botswana Sport Awards



University of Botswana (UB) Boxing Club boxer, Lethabo Modukanele is this year's Sportswoman of the Year. Modukanele won the award at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Botswana Sport Awards held in Gaborone on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

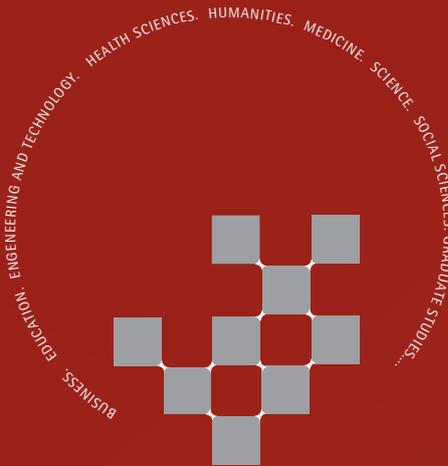
Modukanele was nominated for Sportswoman of the Year category alongside Tsaone Sebele of Athletics and Centy Kgosikoma of Karate.

However, it was Modukanele who impressed following her feat as the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Bronze medallist and Best Female Boxer in the 48kg category at the recent Botswana Boxing Association (BoBA) awards, among others. The UB alumnus' hard work, persistence, determination, patience, commitment and resilience have made her family, friends, the club, and UB proud.

UB Boxing Club and the Department of Sports Culture and Recreation have expressed their appreciation towards Modukanele's achievements. The club says it recognises the unwavering support of the Department of Sports, Culture and Recreation continues to render in the development of sports especially clubs and individual athletes.

It is through the Department of Sports, Culture, and Recreation, that UB continues to play a notable role in Botswana boxing and other sporting codes.

UB Boxing Club has further extended appreciation towards Head Coach – Olympian, Commonwealth Games silver medallist, and UB Alumnus, Lechedzani Master Luza for his significant contribution towards Modukanele's success since her first day in boxing. The club's boxers also continue to depend on Luza's volunteerism. ■



In Pursuit of Academic Excellence

### VISION

To be a leading centre of academic excellence in Africa and the world

### MISSION

To improve economic and social conditions for the Nation while advancing itself as a distinctively African university with a regional and international outlook.



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