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UBNEWS

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Greetings! Find in this UB News edition, a story about Chairman of Ntlo Ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Puso Gaborone, highlighting the remarkable journey of the University of Botswana (UB). Indeed, UB has come a long way since its humble beginnings, evolving into a cornerstone of Botswana's development.

In this instance, Kgosi Gaborone underscores the University's critical role in advancing the country's development agenda through its extensive research initiatives and invaluable services. This acknowledgment from country's leadership is more than just a commendation. It is a testament to the University's pivotal role in shaping the future of our nation.

It reaffirms UB's position as a fountain of knowledge and development which are vital to the continuous growth and prosperity of national economy. It is, therefore, critical that to continue on this trajectory, the University must constantly strive to break new ground through innovative partnerships and robust stakeholder engagements that yield meaningful societal impact.

It is against this background that this edition of UB News, we highlight the University of Botswana's commitment to building partnerships and collaborations with other institutions of higher learning, industry, community and government.

By fostering these alliances, the University aims to address societal challenges, drive innovation, and create impactful solutions that benefit our communities. These stories underscore

the University's proactive approach to making a significant difference through collaborative efforts not only in Botswana but as far as Nigeria and across the globe.

But perhaps most critically, Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, underscored the importance for African universities to collaborate in advancing the ideals of Africa's Agenda 2063 during his visit to Nigeria to explore potential collaborations.

Reading all about this in this edition, dear reader, will offer you insights into the trajectory that the University of Botswana is eager to pursue as it embarks on its transformative journey towards becoming a high-performance organisation.

Thank You!

Thomas T. Nkhoma

Highlights....



University expresses a need for conversations with local farmers towards creation of alternative ecosystems for energy needs. *See page 11*



The Vice Chancellor Professor David Norris Calls for Partnerships & Collaboration Critical in Research. *See page 20*

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Texas A&M Agrilife Research Team Visits UB to Explore Areas of Collaboration

Ntlo Ya Dikgosi Chairman Commends UB for Shaping National Agenda

The sacrifices made by Batswana, who generously donated cattle to build the University of Botswana, were not in vain.

Chairman of Ntlo Ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Puso Gaborone, has highlighted the University of Botswana's (UB) remarkable journey, noting that from its humble beginnings, the University has evolved into a significant institution deeply embedded in Botswana's development agenda.

Kgosi Gaborone was speaking at a gathering organised on 25th January 2024 to brief members of Ntlo Ya Dikgosi on various research initiatives and services that the University was undertaking to contribute to the country's development processes.

Reflecting on the Botswana University Campus Appeal (BUCA), commonly known as Motho le Motho Kgomo fundraising cam-

paign, Kgosi Gaborone expressed satisfaction that the sacrifices made by Batswana, who generously donated cattle to build the University of Botswana, were not in vain.

He indicated that the University had grown significantly both in stature and infrastructure, underscoring its pivotal role in shaping and advancing the country's developmental objectives.

In addition, Kgosi Gaborone noted the University's transformative agenda, highlighting a shift from being solely teaching and learning institutions. As part of the country's leadership, he said their desire was to see UB becoming more responsive to the needs and aspirations of Batswana.

He added that the University of Botswana must continually strive to stay relevant and align with the ever-changing global agenda in order to effectively address emerging challenges. Consequently, UB must continually strive to produce global competitive Batswana graduates to help advance the development agenda of their country.

Kgosi Gaborone urged the University of Botswana to work closely and in partnership with Dikgosi and introduce programmes aimed at enhancing their capacities in various aspects of leadership and management. He emphasised that capacity building for Dikgosi was crucial for the preservation of the institution of bogosi.

Meanwhile, members were taken on a guided tour of the Gaborone UB campus to witness firsthand the university's research initiatives addressing societal needs and challenges. The tour included visits to the Faculty of Science, where they received insights into vaccine development, and the Faculty of Medicine, where they learned about UB's initiatives contributing to the enhancement of the country's healthcare delivery system. They also learnt about the production of biodiesel at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology which highlights the UB's contribution to Botswana's green energy initiatives. ■



Members of Ntlo Ya Dikgosi during a visit to the Faculty of Medicine anatomy laboratory.

UB Courts Debswana Diamond Company and Orapa Mine



Part of the University of Botswana team and Orapa Mine staff during a site visit.

In a move geared towards fostering collaboration between academia and the mining industry, a delegation from the University of Botswana (UB) recently embarked on a fact-finding mission to Debswana Diamond Company's Orapa mine. The visit provided a unique opportunity for both parties to engage in constructive dialogue, share insights, and identify potential areas of collaboration for mutually beneficial partnerships.

The collaborative efforts aim to leverage the UB's academic expertise in areas such as research projects to address specific challenges, innovative technologies to improve mining processes. Also for consideration, were student attachments and study programmes that could enhance the skills of future professionals entering the mining industry as well as aligning education with the mining industry needs.

In his address to mine officials, UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, underscored the importance for universities forging partnerships with industry as means to sustaining the economy and enhancing livelihoods. He emphasised the pivotal role of building such collaborations geared towards

propelling innovation and economic growth. "We need to move across the whole value chain, when we conduct research, technology transfer, product development, commercialisation and production," added Professor Norris.

Adding to the discourse, Orapa Mine General Manager, Mr Mogakolodi Maoketsa, highlighted that the University could play a significant role in areas such contractor and project management skills training, conducting research on gender balance

within the mining ecosystem, exploring new technologies and innovation as well as addressing sustainability issues.

During subsequent site visits, the delegation was afforded the opportunity to tour the mine facilities, gaining insights into extraction processes and engaging in discussions with on-site experts. The itinerary also included a visit to the Adrian - Gale Diamond Museum, which categorically tells the story of the rich history of diamond mining in Botswana. ■



Professor David Norris (R) with an Orapa Mine staff member.

Experts Meet to Evaluate Framework for Inclusive Education for Transition Age Students with IDD

University of Botswana (UB) experts and stakeholders on 29th November 2023 met to evaluate a framework developed to foster inclusive education for transition-age students with Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) in Botswana.

Speaking during the workshop, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education, Dr Boitumelo Mangope, said the research project was motivated by the realisation that IDD learners were overstaying in special unit programmes. As such, she said they ended up aging in the programmes and eventually graduating home having not acquired the necessary skills to enhance

their inclusion into the community and employment.

Dr Mangope said the study was further motivated by the non-existence of transition pathways to post-school avenues. She said the aim of the project was to transform the lives of learners with IDD in primary schools in Botswana by adapting and developing an innovative research based and contextually relevant transition framework to enhance their opportunities besides building capacity and strengthening collaboration among stakeholders.

Dr Mangope explained that research findings also revealed that there was no



Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education, Dr Boitumelo Mangope.

systemic structures at policy level guiding transition of students with IDD. She indicated that the findings revealed that unsystematic transitions practice initiated by individual schools were visible and differed according to contextual factors.

The results further revealed that schools in far flung rural areas had few initiatives compared to those in semi-and urban areas where there were vast opportunities by virtue of them being closer to towns.

Dr Mangope explained that the study showed some challenges in the programme structure in terms of relevant human capital, assessment procedures shown in misplacement of teachers as well as students.

"Graduates of the programme were also shown to have no certificates to show their skills and competencies acquired after completion of their programme, just to mention a few," said Dr Mangope.

Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Liy Mafela, said participation in the project promoted cooperation between universities, parents and organisations with units with children living with disabilities. Professor Mafela explained that it also promoted social justice, inclusive development, equalisation of opportunities for people with disabilities and other special needs through human capital development, knowledge creation as well as creating output. ■



Some of the workshop participants listening attentively to the proceedings.

Law Students Participate in 2023 AMLA Capacity Building Workshop

University of Botswana (UB) Law Students recently participated in an African Mining Legislation Atlas (AMLA) capacity building workshop to gain insights into the fundamentals of the mining sector.

The workshop provided participants with a vast array of lectures, presentations and interactive group exercises which covered every dimension of the mining industry. It also attracted African law students from Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The participants were also awarded certificates.

In her remarks, UB Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Enterprises, Professor Doreen Ramogola Masire, encouraged participants

to network and build mutually beneficial relationships with other professionals in the industry to access career advice which was key to their future growth.

Professor Ramogola Masire expressed gratitude towards Debswana for a positive impact on education in the country through scholarships.

Debswana Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme Senior Project Manager, Mr Wanatsha Moakufi, advised the students to understand the mineral value chain if there were to become impactful corporate lawyers.

Mr Moakufi observed that one of the easiest and quickest way to understand business and the mineral value chain, was to extensively read literature on mining.

For his part, Africa Legal Support Facility Head of Capacity Building, Ms Aida Sylla, advised the students to keep on learning and to always seek guidance besides using available information services and make the best of it.

World Bank Country Representative, Botswana, Mr Liang Wang, said the 15 participants complemented the 229 graduates of the AMLA programme. Mr Liang said the programme responded to clear needs to support knowledge development and expertise in Africa.

He said the programme had been recognised as a good platform for African countries to learn from each other through students, lawyers, universities and other stakeholders. ■

Scientific Minds Meet to Explore Climate Change Impact and Mitigation Measures in Kalahari Basin



Delegates at the Climate Change Impact and Mitigation Measures in Kalahari Basin Conference



Professor Doreen Ramogola Masire



Ms Sain Price

Following the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) on climate change held recently in Dubai that brought together various stakeholders from across the world with the aim of fast-tracking the transition to a clean energy future, the University of Botswana (UB) recently gathered together scientific minds to explore climate change impact and mitigation measures in the Kalahari Basin.

The UB workshop aimed at improving climate change adaptation and resilience in the Kalahari Basin with earth observation data. Participants also deliberated on a series of presentations and discussions on topics including the following: Utility of EO data and other geospatial information to support

climate related responses in Botswana, SADC disaster risk management and strengthening programme, climate change challenges in North Kgalagadi and community adaptation needs, earth observation based information for rangeland monitoring in Africa.

Other presentations included exploring the potential of integrating remote sensing and associated technologies with local knowledge for the benefit of climate response as well as satellite databased information supporting adaptation at property level.

Participants also visited Mosadi-Tshwene and Artisia villages in the Kgatleng District on a field tour to view Kalahari Sandveld and Hardveld boundary besides embarking

on community outreach and engagement activities in Mochudi to share knowledge as well as raise awareness on climate change challenges.

Speaking during the official opening of the workshop, Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Doreen Ramogola Masire, said the workshop paved way for collaborations on research and capacity building across the southern African region and beyond.

Professor Ramogola Masire said climate change posed significant risk to subsistence farming in rural communities as well as ecosystems such as the Okavango Delta and Kalahari Basin. She further indicated that recent heatwaves highlighted the danger

that climate change posed on humans, animal health besides straining medical facilities and infrastructure.

She added that it was important to focus efforts on developing sustainable practices to minimise the impact of climate change on humans, land and animals. The Acting Vice Chancellor said UB was going through a transformation stage from a teaching and learning to a research intensive institution geared towards solving societal challenges.

For his part, British High Commissioner to Botswana and UK representative to the SADC, Ms Sian Price, acknowledged that climate change and associated nature loss were serious challenges. She indicated that

urgent and rapid progress were required to avoid severe impact.

Ms Price cautioned that rural communities were the most impacted by effects of climate change hence it was certainly evident that those living in the Kalahari Desert where local populations already faced climate challenges, were at risk She said the world was fighting to get back climate on track to half global emissions by 2030 and keep temperature rise below 1.5 Degrees Celsius. ■

University of Botswana and Eaton Business School Poised to Sign MoU on Business Programmes



Graduation Ceremony at Eaton Business College

The University of Botswana (UB) and Eaton Business School (EBS) in the United Kingdom are poised to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) through which the two institutions establish collaborative ties, specifically to enhance and expand their professional business programme offerings. This emerged during a meeting where Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, met with officials from the EBS Management in Dubai this week. Professor Norris is currently in Dubai attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference 28 (COP28).

Not only is the Vice Chancellor attending the climate meeting but also meeting several potential collaborators who can forge partnerships to advance the University's business portfolio. Among those he met, were officials from Eaton Business School Management primarily to establish collaborative ties, specifically to enhance and expand the University of Botswana's professional business programmes offerings.

These include, among others, Doctor of Business Administration and Executive Master of Business Administration (MBA). Discussions centred on models of how these could be jointly delivered, quality assured and certificated.

The agreement would be such that the University of Botswana will be responsible for running the programme which include delivery of modules, supervisor of research,

among others. EBS will be responsible for quality assurance whereby the programme delivery will be overseen by EBS quality team.

The two parties have agreed to meet again (virtually) on the 18th December 2023 and the Vice Chancellor will be accompanied by the Faculty of Business officials to agree on modalities for the MoU signing. The two parties were desirous of implementing the agreement as early as January 2024. ■



Part of the delegation from the Eaton Business School with some members of the University of Botswana management.

Pandamatenga Farmers Given Hope



This is one area that the University and yourselves should have conversations around with a view to creating an alternative ecosystem for your energy needs.

The Vice chancellor of the University of Botswana (UB), Professor David Norris, together with his team recently met with the Pandamatenga Commercial Farmers Association (PCFA) Board Members, village leadership as well as small scale farmers with the aim of exploring areas for partnerships and collaborations.

The meeting was part of the UB stakeholder engagement activities in the Chobe area in line with University's strategic intent of Enhancing Economic, Societal Engagement and Impact.

Speaking during the meeting, Professor Norris indicated that the role of a University was to be at the forefront of societal development through positive impactful research. He continued that the University was endowed with researchers and experts in various fields who can help advance the agricultural industry through its groundbreaking research in areas such as production of biodiesel as a green energy source.

"This is one area that the University and yourselves should have conversations around

with a view to creating an alternative ecosystem for your energy needs. The biodiesel is environmentally friendly as it has low carbon emissions," said Professor Norris

In addition, Professor Norris indicated that through the UB Innovation Centre, the University has developed organic pesticide which was 100 percent natural and effective pest control as well as fungi besides other related plant diseases.

"For us to be able to achieve sustainable farming as a country, we need to reduce our heavy reliance on chemical pesticides for the preservation of the soil's health but most importantly overall environmental balance," he added.

Further, he said the University could play an advocacy role influencing policy makers to make the farming industry profitable and sustainable while addressing food security in the country."

In response, PCFA Chairperson, Ms Lillian Scheepers, indicated there was need to look

at farming not only as just growing plants but as a business.

The farmers have been doing their own investigation, research and consultations, and that is where we need partnerships and collaborations that will advance our farming enterprises," said Ms Scheepers.

She said the PCFA represented almost 99 percent of commercial farmers in Pandamatenga. She noted that there were hundred millions of pula that circulated in one ploughing season.

"We are talking about business, we are talking about sustainability, we are talking about the best crop, seeds, terrain, climate here," she noted. However, Ms Scheepers said most farmers struggled with data collection which she indicated could be another area for collaboration. ■

Walt Disney World Company Returns on Recruitment Drive



The Walt Disney World Company in collaboration with University of Botswana Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management recently conducted yet another recruitment exercise for an opportunity to work at the Walt Disney World Company in the United States, in a 12-month excellence service delivery programme, following the one held in May 2023.

According to Disney Programmes Senior Recruiter, Mr Javier Reyes, the recruitment was to increase candidates

to the pool of the 2024 and 2025 intake. He added that no one had been hired yet from the previous recruitment exercise. However, selections will be made for both interviews in due course.

Consequently, prospective candidates were hospitality industry personnel, one of which is a UB Tourism and Hospitality Management graduate. Additionally, 18 Tourism and Hospitality Management programme final year students were afforded the opportunity to attend the Walt Disney World company presentation in preparation for

the 2025 cultural representative programme recruitment drive.

The internship and industry placement coordinator in the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Mrs Montle Siya, who is an alumnus of the Walt Disney World company said they were currently in discussions with the Walt Disney World Company on education partnerships beyond the recruitment efforts with US universities and colleges.

She explained that UB currently had memorandum of Understandings (MOU'S) with some US institutions of higher learning

such as Florida State University, University of Nevada Las Vegas (William F. Harrah College of Hospitality). Thus, together with Walt Disney World Company will seek opportunities for student exchanges and internships to enhance collaborative efforts. The Walt Disney World Company also provides opportunities for recruits to enhance their global career with professional courses offered by Walt Disney University during their tenure. ■



Digital Library Strategy Needs Assessment Survey

Dear University of Botswana Community,

We hope this message finds you well. We are writing to request your valuable participation in the "Digital Library Needs Assessment Survey," a critical initiative undertaken by the Digital Library Strategy Development Committee, established under the guidance of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Enterprise. Your input is crucial in shaping the future of our university's digital library resources and services.

As both students and staff, your perspectives and requirements are instrumental in guiding the development of a robust and user-centric digital library strategy. This survey aims to gather insights into your digital resource needs, preferences, and suggestions for enhancing the digital library experience. Your responses will assist us in making informed decisions regarding the acquisition, organization, and accessibility of digital resources, ensuring that our digital library aligns with your academic and research needs. Please take a few moments to complete the survey (link below), as your input will directly contribute to the evolution of our university's digital library into a more efficient and responsive resource for all members of our community. Your participation is greatly appreciated, and we thank you in advance for your contribution to this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Digital Library Strategy Development Committee

<https://moithuti-web1.ub.ac.bw/surveys/index.php/734733?lang=en>

www.ub.bw

Wisconsin University Keen on Strengthening relations

The aim is to collaborate with the University of Botswana especially in areas of research, training, climate change, water management and data management system.

The University of Wisconsin (UW) in the United State of America is keen on strengthening relations with the University of Botswana (UB) especially in areas of research, training, climate change, water management and data management system. A delegation from UW recently visited the University of Botswana (UB) as part of strengthening such relations.

Welcoming the visitors, Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, highlighted research as the core of UB's new strategic direction. He said for a developing country such as Botswana that was experiencing many challenges, research was key to solving societal challenges. Professor Norris noted that Botswana was a drought prone country, therefore collaboration on issues of water harvesting, conservation and recycling was very critical.

He said Botswana had a fragile eco system environment such as Okavango Delta that

needed to be protected. As such, the Vice Chancellor underscored the importance of collaborations on issues of climate change, sustainable development and resource management. He advised UW to assisted UB on supervision of post-graduate students and data management systems.

In response, UW Director for External Relations and International Division, Ms Maj Helena Fischer, said UW has long been a global university with 120 years of existence. She said UW aimed to expand beyond US borders through research collaborations, training as well as staff and student exchanges.

For his part, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies Dean, Mr Paul Robbins, said they entered into a partnership with the Okavango Research Institute (ORI) in 2022 in areas of wildlife training and monitory tools as well as management systems. Mr Robbins said the vision was to transform people-based tool to e-based tool within a knowledge-based

economy as way of commencing to collect and effectively managing accruing data for decision-making.

Meanwhile, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies Director for International and Professional MS Programmes, Mr Nathan Schulfer, said data science and management were top priority at UW Madison Campus. He highlighted opportunities for collaboration on core supervision post-graduate students, developing data expertise between faculties, and remote sensing in satellite imaging and drones. Dean, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, Mr Paul Robbins was also part of the delegation. ■



Climate Change Crisis Exerts Heavy Burden on African Countries

Despite contributing relatively small amounts to global greenhouse gas emissions, African countries bear disproportionately large and harmful impacts of climate change, observed Assistant Secretary General and Director, United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Africa, Ms Ahunna Eziakonwa.

During a public lecture titled "Equity Across Epochs: Unravelling Climate Change's Influence on the Current and Future Generations," held at the University of Botswana (UB) Campus Sport Indoor Centre, Ms Eziakonwa underscored the moral obligation of developed countries, as heavy carbon emitters, to aid African nations, especially those in rural areas, in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Ms Eziakonwa observed that despite Africa hosting the highest form of renewable energy resources, 80 percent of its population lacked access to clean energy. She further stressed that African countries bore significant financial burdens to counter the impacts of climate change. That was despite Africa being the least responsible for the global climate crisis.

Consequently, she advised Africa to take advantage of its vast mining resources for



Ms Ahunna Eziakonwa

sustainable development. Furthermore, Ms Eziakonwa highlighted Africa's historical exploitation by developed countries for its mineral resources, which has contributed significantly to their prosperity.

Ms Eziakonwa underscored the importance of prioritising financial resources for

addressing humanitarian challenges over funding wars as a crucial step in effectively combating climate change worldwide. She observed that addressing climate change must begin with initiatives in Africa. The responsibility to bring about change, she noted, rested with Africans, and required a shift in mindset.

In his welcome remarks, UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, observed that addressing climate change challenges began with individual actions. He highlighted the significance of achieving sustainable development goals such as eradicating poverty, eliminating hunger, promoting good health and well-being, ensuring access to clean water and affordable energy, fostering decent work and economic growth as well as and promoting industry innovation and infrastructure.

In his closing remarks, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, Professor Georges Ekosse, cautioned that climate change remained a significant challenge requiring immediate global attention especially for African countries. He said Africa should leverage its mineral wealth and renewable resources to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ■



French Ambassador Preps UB for Campus Visit



French Ambassador to Botswana and Special Representative to SADC, His excellency, Mr Olivier sharing a light moment with Professor David Norris.

The French Ambassador to Botswana and Special Representative to Southern African Development Community (SADC), His Excellency Mr Olivier Brochenin, recently paid the Vice Chancellor of the University of Botswana (UB), Professor David Norris, a courtesy visit during which he discussed an upcoming visit by representatives from Campus France.

Campus France is a government agency operating under the French Ministry of External Affairs. Mr Brochenin highlighted that Campus France specialised in facilitating opportunities for international students interested in studying in France.

During the meeting, the Ambassador

urged the University of Botswana to facilitate potential interactions with a representative from Campus France, who was scheduled to be in Botswana from 18th to 21st March 2024.

Mr Brochenin indicated that the interactions would involve discussions with students and faculty regarding possible student fellowships with French universities and other collaborations within university faculties, particularly the French Department.

It is noteworthy that the French Department at the University of Botswana has a longstanding relationship with France through its engagement with Alliance Française.

According to the French Head of Department, Ms Rodah Nthapelang, the partnership

with Alliance Française had provided French students with opportunities for attachments and enriching experiences.

"We will be delighted to engage with Campus France and explore additional opportunities for collaboration beyond our current partnership with Alliance Française and other French institutions," elaborated Ms. Nthapelang. ■

FNB Botswana Donates 20 Laptops

Universities must play a pivotal role in driving value chain research, development and innovation through artificial intelligence.

The University of Botswana (UB) Innovation Centre has received a generous donation of 20 laptops from First National Bank Botswana (FNBB).

In his welcoming remarks, UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, extended heartfelt appreciation to FNBB for their valuable contribution. He emphasised the significance of this assistance in aiding the UB Innovation Centre to fulfil its mission in research and innovation.

UB established an innovation Centre with the aim of fostering value chain research, development, and the incubation of companies. Highlighting the abundant talent and innovative ideas among the youth of Botswana, Professor Norris emphasised the need for a nurturing environment to harness their potential.

Professor Norris drew parallels with countries such as Australia and the United States, where universities play pivotal roles in driving value chain research, development, innovation, and artificial intelligence to bolster economic growth. He underscored the importance of



Professor Richie Molalosi

collaboration with industries and private entities such as the FNBB Foundation to empower the youth.

Professor Norris stressed that the UB Innovation Centre welcomes individuals with impactful ideas that contribute positively to society.

For his part, the Director of the UB innovation Centre, Prof Richie Moalosi reiterated the center's mandate to promote innovation and research, ultimately leading to the commercialisation of products and services.

Professor Moalosi further emphasized that the Centre not only provides support for incubation and entrepreneurship but also aims to cultivate and maintain partnerships with industries. Moalosi added that another key mandate of the Centre is to foster outreach and engagement with communities.

Speaking at the Ceremony, The FNB Information Officer Mr Moses McGeoff, underscored the community-oriented nature of the initiative, stating that the provision of laptops will benefit students and all visitors to the Centre. He emphasised the value of these high-end machines will enhance the Centre's operations.

Innovation Centre Exhibition Attracts Innovators and Industry Professionals

Primary focus was to showcase locally produced innovative products and services



innovators from across the country as well as industry professionals. The primary focus was to showcase locally produced innovative products and services, with the overarching goal of fostering incubation and entrepreneurship.

One of the products on display was the Farm Hover, an innovative piece of equipment designed for planting seeds and applying fertiliser simultaneously. Other products at the exhibition included Mashmod Organic Pesticide, an eco-friendly solution effective against fungal, bacterial, viral, and insect infections, Thatahatsi Natural Skincare Glycerine, formulated with cactus plant and water.

The product offer benefits such as addressing pigmentation, blemishes, dry skin, cracked heels, acne, and reducing wrinkles and fine lines. Additionally, visitors had the chance to explore a novel system for producing pyrolysis oil using both tires and plants, as well as a refreshing ginger drink. Cutting-edge

technology was on display with a 3D printing machine, while animal feeds made from 100 percent natural sundried Black Soldier Fly Larvae attracted attention. Among the innovative prototypes were a hospital bed crafted from plastics and a portable home power bank device utilizing solar energy.

Professor Richie Moalosi, the Director of the UB Innovation Centre, expressed optimism about the Center's trajectory, stating that within six to eight months, significant strides will be made in advancing value chain research, development, and innovation. He emphasised ongoing collaborations with industry partners to transition innovative products to commercial viability. Furthermore, he highlighted efforts to engage multiple projects and funding sources to bolster innovation and foster partnerships with industries.

The University of Botswana Innovation Centre recently organised a mini exhibition to showcase progress since its establishment in May 2023. The event, held on 16th February 2024, brought together



Partnerships & Collaboration Critical in Research

...working together will create new solutions to community challenges, develop commercially viable innovative technology and bridge skills gaps.

The University of Botswana (UB) is on a mission to intensify its drive to forge partnerships and collaborations in research with stakeholders such as institution of higher learning, industry, community and government with a view to address societal challenges.

This was said by Professor David Norris during Massachusetts Institute of Technol-

ogy (MIT) Legatum Foundry Fellow Panel Discussion hosted by Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub (BDIH) on the 26th January 2024. The discussion was organised under the theme: "Leveraging Academic Research to Grow Innovation and Entrepreneurship Eco System." Professor Norris said working together would create new solutions to community challenges, develop commercially

viable innovative technology based on most recent discoveries in addition to bridging skills gaps. He added that Africa was losing a lot due to lack of Intellectual Property (IP) protection especially on areas of indigenous knowledge in medicinal plants.

African universities have numerous publications on plant materials which do not entail protected research innovation value chains. Professor Norris attributed the loss of such huge sums of money to the fact that many African countries were not properly signed up to global protocols protecting IP rights.

He indicated that research and innovation outputs should now include deliverables in IP, commercialisation and influence on public policies intended for economic diversification, industrialisation, beneficiation of products and innovative business practices.

Legatum Centre for Development and Entrepreneurship at MIT, Executive Director, Dina Sherif, advised African universities to partner and collaborate with MIT in research and in corporate scientists and researchers as well as programmes especial around digitalisation and commercialisation. ■



Professor David Norris emphasising a point during a panel discussion.



Professor David Norris (R) with Professor Otlogetswe Totolo (L) and Professor Hakgamalang Chepete listen attentively to the proceedings.

Prof Norris Calls for Pan-African University Collaboration Towards Agenda 2063



International Study Abroad Fair (ISAF) organiser, Mr Peter Eledan sharing notes with Professor David Norris (L) and Professor Georges Ekosse (R) prior to the fair.

Vice Chancellor of the University of Botswana (UB), Professor David Norris, has underscored the need for African universities to collaborate in advancing the ideals of Africa Agenda 2063. Professor Norris was speaking during a special television programme on Broadcasting Corporation of Oyo State (BCOS) on the 21st February 2024 ahead of the International Study Abroad Fair (ISAF) scheduled for the 23rd February 2024 in Ibadan, Nigeria.

Dubbed The Africa We Want, Agenda 2063 is Africa's blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse. To that end, Professor Norris highlighted the significance of collective efforts towards realisation of the Agenda 2063 vision, which aims to transform Africa into a global powerhouse through inclusive and sustainable development.

"Who else apart from universities should be leading this?" asked Professor Norris, noting that African Universities were the right entities that should spearhead efforts by African leaders.

However, he questioned why African coun-

tries often sought solutions from universities outside the continent instead of investing in local research talent. "[African] Universities must be the shining light so that everyone can learn from [them]," said the Vice Chancellor.

As such, Professor Norris highlighted that African universities should serve as beacons of innovation and knowledge creation while advocating for increased investment in post-graduate research programmes to address local challenges. He emphasised the importance of African countries pooling resources to tackle common challenges and promote good governance within academic institutions. Professor Norris urged African Universities to embrace their role as catalysts for change and innovation in driving the continent towards the realisation of its developmental aspirations as outlined in Agenda 2063.

Notwithstanding, the Vice Chancellor observed a significant weakness amongst African Universities, highlighting their failure to leverage the complete research value chain. "So, it is very important that our innovation or research is across the entire value chain, all

the way to commercialisation and these are the things that we should learn from each other," he added.

Meanwhile, Professor Norris is in Ibadan, Oyo State Nigeria as one of the keynote speakers at the International Study Abroad Fair (ISAF) and Conference 2024 under the theme; "Accessing Education Beyond Border; Embracing Global Opportunities." The binary event will take place at the Thomas Oritsejomi Hall, International Conference Centre (ICC), Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria on the 23rd February 2024.

ISAF is an international educational event designed to provide a dedicated platform to discuss how to harness global opportunities through international education and also present help to turn prospective students' aspirations of studying abroad to reality. Professor Norris will speak on the topic, The Power of International Education: Transforming Lives and Shaping the Future. He will further participate in a panel discussion on the topic: Measuring and Assessing the Benefits of VC1 International Strategic Partnerships

Oyo State Governor Proposes Collaboration to Enhance Socio-Economic Development



University of Botswana team with their Nigerian hosts and Oyo State television station anchors.

The Executive Governor of Oyo State, Governor Oluwaseyi Makinde, has expressed keen interest in fostering collaboration between the University of Botswana (UB) and universities in Oyo State. Governor Makinde expressed this during a courtesy visit by UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, in Ibadan, Nigeria on the 22nd February 2024. He underscored Ibadan's historical significance as the intellectual hub of Africa, given the renowned University of Ibadan, which has educated numerous African leaders.

Notably, Oyo State with a population of close to eight (8) million people, has 12 universities, one of which belongs to the federal Government, three (3) to the state Government while eight (8) are privately owned. Consequently, Governor Makinde outlined four (4) key areas of cooperation, highlighting education as one of the major pillars underpinning the socio-economic development of Oyo State.

Such goals could be realised through initiatives such as student and staff exchanges, he emphasised, urging officials to work towards making these collaborations a reality. On welcoming the Vice Chancellor and his entourage to his office, Governor Makinde expressed a special affinity for Botswana, revealing that beyond visiting the country, one of his economic advisors on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was a Botswana.

Earlier, Professor Norris echoed similar sentiments, emphasising the importance of African universities collaborating to drive the continent's development agenda instead of solely relying on foreign expertise. "We are here for co-creation to drive the African Union's (AU) development Agenda 2063," he echoed.

Professor Norris highlighted Africa's wealth of expertise across various fields but lamented missed opportunities for its universities to collaborate in developing models to drive socio-economic development. In addition, he expressed regret that often external consultancies were sought notwithstanding that Africa had capacity to handle such tasks internally.

"Often consultancies are undertaken by external consultants from overseas when we are here and have the capacity and expertise to handle the consultancies too. We should not always be consumers," he emphasised, advocating for leveraging internal resources and expertise.

Professor Norris expressed gratitude for the significant contributions of Nigerian professors during the infancy stages of the University of Botswana. He also highlighted the reciprocal relationship, noting that the University has trained numerous Nigerian students in both undergraduate and post-graduate programmes. "We take pride in our Nigerian alumni and the invaluable contributions Nigeria has made to Botswana," observed

Professor Norris.

Professor Norris is in Ibadan as one of the keynote speakers at the International Study Abroad Fair (ISAF) and Conference 2024 under the theme; "Accessing Education Beyond Border; Embracing Global Opportunities." The binary event is taking place at the Thomas Oritsejolomi Hall, International Conference Centre (ICC) on the 23rd February 2024.

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The Power of International Education: Transforming Lives and Shaping the Future. He will further participate in a panel discussion on the topic: Measuring and Assessing the Benefits of International Strategic Partnerships in Student Exchange Programme.

He is accompanied by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Professor Georges Ekosse, Director, Public Affairs, Dr Faith Rapuleng-Tuelo, Senior Executive Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, Mr Moeng Segatsho and Executive Assistant to the Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Mrs Matshediso Zungu as well as Mr Thomas Nkhoma, Public Affairs Officer - Media. ■

Prof Norris Urges for Action Towards Realising AU Research Investment Target



University of Botswana (UB) Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, says it is high time African countries started spending at least three (3) percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on research and development as per the commitment made at the 2006 African Union (AU) Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Professor Norris made this clarion call during the International Study Abroad Fair (ISAF) and Conference 2024 held in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria on the 23rd February 2024 under the theme: "Accessing Education Beyond Borders: Embracing Global Opportu-

nities." Professor Norris was speaking on the topic, The Power of International Education: Transforming Lives and Shaping the Future.

His call for action derived from the 2006 AU Summit which gathered leaders from across the continent to discuss various issues pertaining to Africa's development. The summit convened with the objective of confronting pressing challenges hindering Africa's progress in addition to devising strategies to drive the continent's socio-economic advancement, with a particular focus on enhancing research and development initiatives.

During the summit, the leaders recognised the critical role of Research and Development (R&D) in driving innovation, fostering economic growth, and addressing the continent's pressing challenges. The leaders then committed to increasing investment in R&D by allocating at least three (3) percent of their respective GDP to research activities. The commitment was seen as a critical step towards building Africa's scientific and technological capabilities and promoting sustainable development across the continent.

Regrettably, as Professor Norris high-

UB Team Visits Manyana Village for Stakeholder Engagement



Kgosi Kebinatshwene Mosielele of Bahurutshe.

University of Botswana (UB) team recently met with stakeholders from Manyana village for a Stakeholder Engagement Meeting. This collaborative effort, spearheaded by Manyana Community Development Trust (MACODET), Moshupa-Manyana Sub Land Board, and the Ministry of Lands Management, Water, and Sanitation Services, sought to provide expert advice and promote synergy among the involved parties.

The UB team offered expert guidance on optimising land use for sustainable

development and safeguarding cultural heritage sites amidst socio-economic growth. In addition, they advocated for land reservation to preserve heritage sites, fostering tourism opportunities within the village. The UB team comprised United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Chair holder, Dr Susan Keitumetse and Director Legal Services, Mr Benbella Rwelengera.

The purpose of the meeting was to make consultation and give a briefing on sites allocated for residential plot and socio-economic development in the village by

Land Board and the Ministry. To affirm the proposed physical plan of the Ministry if it is in accordance with the plan proposed by the village leaders intending to transform Manyana into a model of a smart village. In addition, University of Botswana Faculty of Engineering and Technology students were also engaged in the village to assist in developing community project such as construction of Community Bridge.

UB team partnership with Manyana community leadership is a sequel to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) the University of Botswana signed with Manyana Community Development Trust (MACODET) in September 2021. The University undertook to assist the Trust realise its dream of turning Manyana Village into a model of smart village and derive economic benefit from these sites. UB and MACODET's partnership which also includes the University of Toronto in Canada, aims to promote global partnerships towards establishing a sustainable community driven inclusive economic growth in collaboration with government and other development partners. ■



Part of the University of Botswana team that visited Manyana.

Leading Botswana's Carbon Neutrality Drive



Staff members of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology explaining how biodiesel is produced.

The Botswana Biodiesel Conference and Expo 2024, hosted recently in Gaborone, marked a significant milestone in Botswana's journey towards a carbon-neutral future. Spearheaded by collaborative efforts between the Ministry of Minerals (MME), University of Botswana (UB), and the National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI), the event showcased groundbreaking research on biodiesel production and its potential impact on the nation's energy sector.

Held under the theme, "Biodiesel: Driving Towards Carbon Neutrality," the conference highlighted the pivotal role of biodiesel in mitigating climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Minister of Mineral (MME), Mr. Lefoko Moagi, reiterated the Government's commitment to clean energy transition, citing a target to reduce emissions by 15 percent by 2030. The collaborative research funded by the Ministry of Minerals and Energy, to the tune of P19 million, lays the foundation for Botswana's energy sector transformation.

Acting UB Vice Chancellor, Mr. Dawid Katzke, underscored the University's role in advancing research on biodiesel production, aligning with global efforts to address climate change and promote sustainable development. Presenting research findings on biodiesel production, Lead Researcher and Project Coordinator, Professor Clever Ketlogetswe, said they use beef tallow/animal fats and used cooking oils which were in abundance locally.

Professor Ketlogetswe highlighted the feasibility of establishing a biodiesel industry in Botswana, citing the significant quantities of beef tallow/animal fats produced monthly and the potential to meet the city's fuel demand. Debswana's fleet testing demonstrated the environmental benefits of biodiesel, with blends significantly reducing carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emissions compared to petroleum diesel.

Curator of National Gene Bank, Dr. Tiny Motlhaodi from NARDI discussed the potential of indigenous plants in biodiesel production, showcasing Botswana's rich biodiversity and

the suitability of non-consumable plants for oil extraction. Deputy Permanent Secretary Livestock Farming at the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Boitumelo Mogome Maseko, underscored the transformative impact of biodiesel production on Botswana's economy and environment.

The Botswana Biodiesel Conference & Expo 2024 represents a crucial step towards sustainable energy development and environmental stewardship, positioning Botswana as a leader in the global transition to clean energy. ■

IT Department Hosts Data Protection Commission for National Policy Alignment



Participants of Data Protection workshop organised by the Department of Information Technology during the deliberations.

The Department of Information and Technology at the University of Botswana (UB) recently hosted Botswana Information & Data Protection at the UB Conference Centre to address National Policy Compliance. The purpose of the gathering was to address the critical issues surrounding information and data protection in Botswana, aligning national standards with international norms while upholding the country's policies and laws. In her opening address, UB's Director of Public Affairs, Dr Faith Rapuleng-Tuelo, highlighted the university's role as a custodian of substantial amounts of data and information, emphasising the importance of applying and complying with the Information and Data Protection Act.

Mr Canaan Mathendele, Director of Information and Technology at UB, echoed the same sentiments, highlighting the need to harmonise current practices with regulations to ensure compliance regarding data protection and security. Commissioner of the Information and Data Protection Commission, Ms Kapaletswe Somolekae, underscored the necessity for Botswana to adhere to international laws, particularly in light of recent updates to anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regulations by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Ms Somolekae stressed the importance of conducting risk assessments related to anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing and aligning with principles of privacy and personal data

protection outlined in the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Council of Europe Convention. Deputy Director of EduTech, Dr Alfred Mutanga, highlighted the importance of collaboration among all stakeholders to uphold the Data and Information Protection Act and regulations. He reiterated that safeguarding data and information was crucial for Botswana's sovereignty and development, as they are the modern-day currency. Dr Mutanga closed the session by expressing gratitude to Commissioner Somolekae for her insights on aligning the University with Botswana and international standards of data protection and law. ■

Academics Launch Groundbreaking Book on Social Protection



BookTwo University of Botswana (UB) academics, Professors Dolly Ntseane and Kholisani Solo have launched a groundbreaking book on social protection. Professor Kholisani Solo is the Coordinator of the UB Legal Clinic under the Department of Law while Professor Dolly Ntseane Affiliate Researcher from the Department of Social Work. The book titled "Social Protection in Botswana: Socio-Economic and Legal Perspectives" marks a significant milestone in the discourse on social welfare and policy development in Botswana.

In her remarks during the launch of the book, Professor Ntseane, expressed gratitude for the wisdom, energy, and perseverance that propelled them to complete the project. Professor Ntseane further thanked the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) for the financial support, which made the publication of the book possible. Notably, FES has been a steadfast partner in advocating for social protection reforms since 2001, facilitating numerous conferences and initiatives in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

Professor Ntseane observed that the book's genesis harks back to the authors' involvement in drafting the SADC CODE on Social Protection, a seminal document

adopted by SADC Heads of States in 2008. She acknowledged Dr. John Ntseane's invaluable contributions as a researcher and the expertise of other academics, including Professor Rodreck Mupedziswa and Professor Letlhokwa Mpedi. Professor Happy Siphambe wrote the foreword for the book. In addition, he provided helpful comments, valuable insights and critical input.

Furthermore, Professor Ntseane expressed gratitude to policy makers, programme implementers, and their respective families for their unwavering support throughout the book's development.

She highlighted that the new edition of the book builds upon the foundation laid by its predecessor, published in 2007. She added that the book reflects the evolving landscape of social protection, offering critical analysis, and recommendations to address emerging risks and vulnerabilities across different stages of life.

Professor Ntseane said key highlights of the book include an examination of government policies and legal frameworks guiding social protection interventions, a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of existing programmes, and recommendations for improvement.

Moreover, it underscores the Government's commitment to inclusive social protection interventions as articulated in Vision 2036 and the National Social Protection Framework of 2018.

The book's relevance extends beyond academia, catering for policymakers, practitioners, civil society organisations, and researchers alike. It serves as a comprehensive resource for understanding and advocating for the rights of vulnerable populations, driving positive change in social welfare policies and programmes. The authors emphasise the importance of monitoring and evaluation in ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of social protection schemes. They urge practitioners to adopt the Theory of Change as an analytic framework and highlight the need for continued research to evaluate the impact of these interventions.

"Social Protection in Botswana: Socio-Economic and Legal Perspectives" promises to be a cornerstone in the ongoing discourse on social welfare, offering invaluable insights and recommendations for creating a more equitable and inclusive society. ■

TUT Signs Memorandum of Understanding

The University of Botswana (UB) and Tshwane University of Technology formalised a five (5) year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 18th March 2024, in Pretoria, South Africa. Professor Richard Tabulawa, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning led the delegation from UB, which included Professor Olekae Thakadu, Acting Director of the Centre for Continuing of Education, Professor Ritchie Moalosi, Director of the UB Innovation Center, Dr. Faith Rapuleng-Tuelo, Director of Public Affairs, and Dr. Emmanuel Moswela, Executive Assistant in the Office of the Vice Chancellor.

The UB delegation was welcomed by Professor Barend J van Wyk, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Teaching, Learning, and Technology, and Dr. Edgar Nesamvuni, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences and other TUT officials. The MoU focuses on the following niche areas; entrepreneurship and technology as they serve as strategic and mutual cornerstones for both institutions. Additionally, the collaboration will encompass; curriculum development, faculty/staff exchange, student exchange, research, and material exchange. The

University of Botswana (UB) stands to gain significantly by cultivating strong connections with the industry to tailor curricular to meet industry demands and the current economic requirements of the country. Furthermore, collaboration will provide an avenue for sharing state-of-the-art strategies in innovation, ultimately propelling the transformation of ideas into tangible products and services.

Professor Tabulawa signed the MoU on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris. ■



Public Affairs Director, Dr Faith Rapuleng-Tuelo, helping Professor Richard Tabulawa to sign the MoU.

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Prof Norris Urges for Action...

lighted this week, the goal to allocate three (3) percent of GDP towards research and development remains elusive. To date, no African country has surpassed spending more than one percent on research and development. "These are the things that we must reflect upon, and I think for Africa 'Talk Shows' must really end. I think it is time we start implementing some of the agreements we made," emphasised the Vice Chancellor. Professor Norris underscored the importance of fostering an environment where young people could pursue education abroad and then return to contribute to the development of their home countries. He expressed concern over the current scenario whereby Africa's human capital predominantly benefits already developed nations, leaving the continent deprived of critical skills and expertise for its advancement.

He lamented that many young people misunderstood the concept of international education by assuming that it only involved studying in Europe or the United States of America. Conversely, Professor Norris point out that international education encompassed more than going to Europe alone, citing universities in Africa such as the University of Botswana, Ghana, or South Africa as prime examples.

He advised African youth not to overlook the value offered by their own universities.

Furthermore, Professor Norris highlighted that even the world's top universities had their limitations and may not excel in every discipline. Therefore, he encouraged students to consider seeking education in institutions such as Makerere University, the University of Botswana, and the University of Ibadan where they could potentially find greater value and specialisation in specific disciplines that offer top in demand skills that are needed by the economy and 21st workplaces.

Professor Norris underscored the social responsibility of higher education such that the internationalisation of higher education benefitted not only individuals but also the broader community, both home and abroad. Such should entail contributions through education, research, service, and cross-cultural engagement aimed at fostering positive societal impact.

Regrettably, Professor Norris highlighted a lack of seriousness regarding the internationalisation of higher education in African universities. He noted a lack of institutional commitment and perceived internationalisation as just tours or visits instead of strategic initiatives. He underlined the need for structured administrative leadership and proper staffing in international offices as well as clear policies to guide the process and

outcomes.

Moreover, Professor Norris advocated for the integration of international and intercultural dimensions into the formal and informal curriculum within local learning environments through leveraging virtual or online learning platforms where applicable.

He expressed concern over the disproportionate flow of human and financial capital to developed countries, emphasising the need for a bidirectional flow to benefit Africa. He called for investment in infrastructure to support quality education besides proactive solutions that address challenges instead of perpetual complaints about limited resources.

Meanwhile, ISAF is an international educational event designed to provide a dedicated platform to discuss how to harness global opportunities through international education and also avail assistance geared towards turning prospective students' aspirations of seeking for further studies to reality. In this platform, University of Botswana, was amongst the participating institutions in Africa, marketing its study programmes, products and associated services. Professor Norris further participated in a panel discussion on the topic: Measuring and Assessing the Benefits of International Strategic Partnerships in Student Exchange Programme.

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Prof Norris Calls for Collaboration...

in Student Exchange Programme. He is accompanied by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Professor Georges Ekosse, Public Affairs Director, Dr Faith Rapuleng-Tuelo, Senior Executive Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, Mr Moeng Segaletsho and

Executive Assistant to the Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Mrs Matshediso Zungu as well as Mr Thomas Nkhoma, Public Affairs Officer - Media. ■

University of Cincinnati Teacher Students to Shadow UB Faculty of Education



Professor Mehta discussing the purpose of his visit with Professor Norris.

The University of Botswana's (UB) Faculty of Education is preparing to welcome 17 teacher students and three (3) faculty members from the University of Cincinnati's College of Education this year. The partnership aims to provide hands-on experience in the Botswana education system, including immersive visits to government and private secondary schools.

The upcoming visit was highlighted during a recent meeting by Professor Mehta who emphasised the importance of global engagement and collaborative efforts among faculty members globally. He underscored Cincinnati College of Education's eagerness to establish connections and facilitate mutual learning opportunities with the University of Botswana.

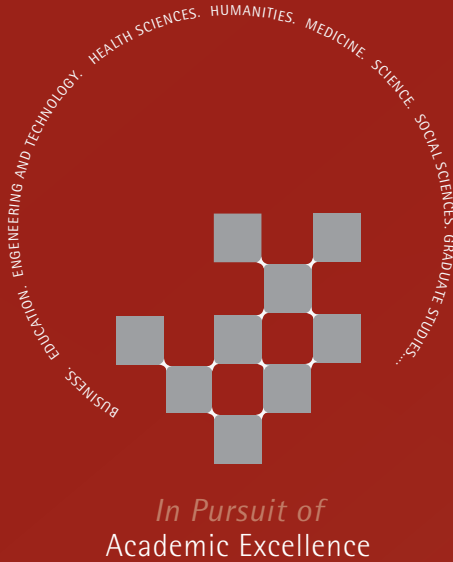
"Our purpose for the visit is for our students and hopefully your students and faculty to engage and collaborate with each other," remarked Prof Mehta, underlining the mutual benefits from such exchanges.

In response, UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, acknowledged the significance of education as one of Botswana's notable achievements. However, he expressed concern regarding the declining pass rates in primary and secondary education across the country.

Professor Norris suggested that collaborations with institutions such as the University of Cincinnati could potentially address these challenges and enhance educational outcomes. In addition to education, both institutions expressed interest in collaborating on health-related initiatives.

Acting Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor Billy Tsima, highlighted the faculty's growth through collaborative endeavours with stakeholders. Since its inception in 2009 with an initial cohort of 36 students, the faculty has expanded to accommodate 378 medical students. Moreover, it has successfully graduated 480 doctors and 122 specialists.

Professor Tsima highlighted the Faculty's commitment to further expansion, including the introduction of subspecialties. He noted that a partnership with the University of Cincinnati would strategically advance the Faculty's goals.



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