

Seventh Stars

A Botswana Examinations Council Publication Profiling the 2015 BGCSE Top 10 Achievers





BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

WHO ARE WE?

Mission, Vision and Core Values

A Mission gives the scope of an organization's operations, defines why it exists and reflects the organization's purpose. A Vision statement is the desired result accomplished when an organization delivers value to its customers. It is an organization's picture of future success - where it wants to be in the future. Core Values are the organization's guiding principles that bind the organization's members together to ensure mission success and delivery of customer value. BEC's Mission, Vision and Core Values are as follows:

Our Mission

"Provision of a credible and responsive assessment and examination system,"

Mission Commentary:

Credible: Trustworthy and Error free assessments and examinations that conforms to both the local and international standards.

Responsive: Examination and Assessment system that is affiliated to the national curriculum, takes into cognisance candidates with special needs and is not detached from current issues in the environment, also relevant to the local market

Our Vision

"To be a provider of accessible and globally competitive qualifications."

Our Core Values

- **Excellence:** We have passion for quality work and outstanding performance characterised by the use of innovative and creative solutions
- **Integrity:** We uphold best practice standards, honesty, professionalism and ethical behaviour.
- **Transparency:** We are open in all matters of public interest while safeguarding confidential information.
- **People Focus:** Our people; employees, the community we serve and nation at large is profoundly important to us. We are thus committed to cultivating a culture that is characterised by mutual respect, professionalism, courtesy, compassion and sharing to build lasting and rewarding relationships.

Who we are?

The Botswana Examination Council (BEC) was established by an Act of Parliament, Act No.11 of 2002, as a body corporate governed by a Council. The council has fourteen members appointed by The Minister of Education and Skills Development, The University of Botswana, private schools, teachers' organizations, the private sector, the public, Botswana Training Authority, Botswana College of Open Distance Learning, and the Tertiary Education Council, Botswana Police Service and the Directorate of Public Service Management. BEC was established as a parastatal that will execute the examinations of the national curriculum for the Ministry of Education and Skills Development.

Our Function and responsibilities

BEC is mandated to conduct school examinations and any other examinations for the Ministry and issue certificates in respect of such examinations. BEC's key business activity is the development, administration, accreditation and certification of school

examination in the primary and secondary education sub-sectors.

The specific functions and responsibilities of Botswana Examinations Council are as follows:

- To develop an assessment policy framework
- To ensure availability of appropriate assessment programmes and examination tools
- To determine examinations procedures for all aspects of the examination process for examination it conducts
- To manage and administer the examination and certification process for the primary and secondary sub-sectors
- To make all logistical arrangements for marking of examination scripts and products
- To regulate all examinations it conducts
- To accredit all examination centers, including schools as a quality assurance mechanism for all the examinations it conducts.
- To issue result of examinations
- To issue certificates in respect of such examinations.

The Council carries the accountability for policy, strategy, delivery and quality assurance of all aspects of primary and secondary education examination, including the establishment and maintenance of standards/ achievement of targets and assessment process.

Organizational Structuring

BEC is organized into five Directorates and four Divisions as follows

- Directorates
1. Examination Administration and Certification
 2. Product Development and Standards
 3. Research and Policy Development
 4. Information, Communications and Technology (ICT)
 5. Corporate Services

Divisions

1. Compliance and Quality Assurance Division
2. Corporate Communications Division
3. Internal Audit Division
4. Office of Strategy Management

Botswana Examinations Council is lead by the Executive Secretary. The directorates are headed by a Director and divisions by a Manager. The Executive Secretary and the Directors form the Executive Management Team

Botswana Examinations Council
Plot 54864, KT Motsete Road, P/Bag 0070,
Gaborone, Telephone No: 365 0700



Botswana Examinations Council

www.bec.co.bw



Republic of Botswana

Ministry of Education and Skills Development



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

7th ANNUAL *Excellence Awards*

In collaboration with

Ministry of Education
and Skills Development



Celebrating Excellence

Editorial Team

Articles: Lesego V. Ntuluki

Design and Layout: Otsile R. Tapson and Mpho Mofwa

Art Direction: Otsile R. Tapson

Photography: Otsile R. Tapson and Keoitse P. Mogotsi

Editors: Fingile Makgalemele, Charles Keikotlhae, Dr. Moreetsi Thobega

BEC's 7th Excellence Awards Publicity Committee Members

Charles Keikotlhae, Karabo Morule, Jacqueline Monei, Keoitse Mogotsi

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Foreword by Executive Secretary



I am delighted once gain to present to you the recipients of the Botswana Examinations Council excellence awards for 2015. The awards are given jointly with the Ministry of Education and Skills Development to outstanding students at the three levels of primary, junior and senior secondary schools. The awards are in recognition and celebration of the outstanding achievement of 36 students across the three levels. Six (6) of these top achievers are students with special needs, two at each of the three levels.

The stories that these BGCSE top achievers tell through personal profiles should serve as encouragement to others in the school system to achieve at even higher levels. The magazine is therefore commended to many others out there.

The awards are for the 2015 cohort, but are given in 2016 during the year that Batswana are celebrating their

50 years as an independent, united and proud nation. They are also coming at the tail end of the national *Vision 2016: Towards Prosperity for All*, through which Botswana made a commitment to the provision of education free from any form of discrimination where “no citizens should be restricted to the circumstances of their birth”. It is most gratifying that the recipients of this year’s excellence awards come from all corners of this huge country and from both rural and urban centres, and display a healthy gender balance. Their success should therefore be used by each and every Motswana to reflect on our commitment of 1997 when the national vision was launched.

The magazine should not only serve as a permanent record of outstanding achievement by these young people, but also as recognition and celebration of others who may have contributed in one way or the other to the success of the recipients. These include the teachers, the government of Botswana, parents, guardians and Parents and Teachers’ Associations (PTAs). All of them helped the recipients of the awards to stay focussed.

To the class of 2015, the Botswana Examinations Council and the Ministry of Education and Skills Development wish to congratulate you on your great achievement. As you celebrate your outstanding achievement with families, guardians, teachers and friends, know that the journey ahead of you is a very long one, and that the whole nation expects a lot from you as future leaders of this country. The nation expects you to select careers that may help drive Botswana’s next Vision 2036, and possibly help the country from middle income to a developed status.

Congratulations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Mokopakgosi'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Professor Brian Mokopakgosi
Executive Secretary



2014 BGCSE Top Achievers (Standing from Left to Right):

Thapelo Clement (Masunga SSS), Keneilwe M. Makwati (Mmadinare SSS), Galefelele G. Modie (Mater Spei College), Daniel Kgautlhe (St. Joseph's College), Nicole N. Maikano (Mater Spei College), Dimpho M. Gosenyang (Naledi SSS), Thato L.S. Willie (St Joseph's College), Gorata B. Malose (Ledumang SSS), Caleb Musekiwa (Lotsane SSS), Dikano Motamma (Masunga SSS), Kagiso Kanthaga (Selibe Phikwe SSS)



**Excellence is not a Skill.
It is an Attitude - Ralph Marston**

Next to EXCELLENCE, comes appreciation.



Congratulations Top Achievers, you have made your schools and villages proud.

KEY			
	Top achiever	JG	John Gitonga
	Top achiever's place of origin	KL	Khumiso Letlhogile
		KR	Kesegofetse Rauwe
		LM	Lebogang Mooketsi
		OM	Oreeditse Mogobye
		KN	Kealeboga Ntshwene
		TS	Tebo Simon
		SS	Sekondeko Sewelo
		TM	Tlameo Malima
		PM	Pholo Motshidisi

Botswana Qualifications Authority would like to advise school leavers and the general public who may have an interest in any learning programme to carefully select and ensure that you enroll with registered and accredited Education and Training Providers (ETPs) and for learning programmes that are accredited by BQA. These includes both Public and Private Education and Training Providers.

Sponsors and employers are advised to only sponsor at ETPs and for learning programmes that are accredited by BQA. These includes short and long term courses.

Please also note that international Education and Training Providers who wish to offer training services in Botswana are required by Law to register and accredit with BQA, irrespective of being registered, recognised or accredited in their countries of origin.

Registration is a process by which the BQA ascertains that the education and training provider has requisite human and material resources, systemic structures, policies and processes to operate as an education and training provider. **Accredited learning programmes** means the programme is quality assured, structured and leads to a qualification.

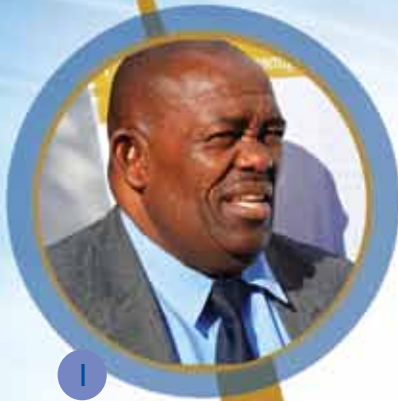
Please contact BQA at:

Tel: +267 365 7200 **Fax:** +267 395 2301 **e-mail:** customerservice@bqa.org.bw

Website: www.bqa.org.bw **Toll Free Line:** 0800 600 934

Sms line: (+267) 7289 3313 **Twitter:** @BQA_BWUpdates

Facebook: BotswanaQualificationsAuthority



Planned Excellence



John



Growing up, John Chitonga of Lotsane Senior Secondary School (LSSS) learnt to embrace from his mother's teachings that the world is a competitive place; one must swim or sink. His mother today is proud that his last born of two sons has done the family proud by finishing at pole position of the 2015 BGCSE Top Achievers.

to their set goals, and advised that working in small groups is more profitable than working in silos for as long as one networks with positive people. "Fuel the fire in you for academic excellence," he concluded.

The BEC team arrived at home to a happy family despite the fact that the Presidential Award is coming to their already full display cabinet, the 7A* and 2As are reason enough to be in high spirits. Mary, John's mother attributes his son's excellence mainly due to obedience, hard work and early preparation. His older brother Benson who also passed with flying colours during his time at LSSS applauded his younger brother for always making the best out his advice and said he would have been surprised if he did not finish amongst the best ten at least. Mary takes the opportunity to promote early child education comparing it to building a house; it needs a strong foundation and revealed that John spent four years in pre-school. The mother shared that she instilled the spirit of excellence in her children by always telling them that she does not reward for a job done, and the two young men chipped in at once to help her complete her winning motto which ends...but for the job well done. Being in the education sector as an entrepreneur and teacher Mary needs no pointers in the importance of having a conducive environment at home and eating healthy meals and letting children focus on school work. She did exactly as she knows it is supposed to be and today she is a proud mother of the Presidential Award recipient. "Responsibilities and academic excellence are a collective, you cannot excel if you are not responsible because ultimately you have to be a responsible citizen," she advised.

The equally happy Top Achiever captioned his 'in-describable' feelings as ecstatic, rewarding, exciting and everything in one. John said he needed competition and he knew he had competition in his peers, so he made sure that it was always rife to bring the best out of himself and his school mates. "My mother taught me to always appreciate what I get and to congratulate my competitors," he revealed. The Presidential Award Recipient was happy to leak the recipe that earned him more than just a handshake from the First Citizen of the Republic of Botswana. He said he always implored advice from his mother and his brother who taught him to put heart in whatever he does. Moreover John was the architect of his own success, he planned well, graphs of his plotted marks and study time table are still on his bedroom wall and will only go down when he puts up new ones for his A Levels.

Well the suspense is over; Congratulations John Chitonga you are the BGCSE Presidential Award Recipient for the class of 2015. John wishes to study a business related course upon completion of his A Levels.



Born of Kenyan descendant in the Central District village of Palapye, John has only attended Botswana schools including pre-school at his mother's private nursery school. John is LSSS' second Top Achiever for the second year running, the school is proud of the young man they have always believed to be a disciplined, focused and visionary in whatever he does. His class teacher Ms. Molebatsi remembers her student as a respectful young man with a very high sense of responsibility with big and positive dreams for the future. "His humility is amazing, he was not a lone wolf as he always helped his peers and challenged them to give him competition," commended Molebatsi. She says he literally made the school what it is with his good leadership skills as the Head Boy.

Mrs. Gobotswang; John's Head of House echoes his class teacher's sentiments that he did not like being a sole winner he would even address the whole assembly challenging other students to work hard and get accolades as well. Mrs. Gobotswang also speaks highly of John's mother Mary Chitonga who she says is one of them as she cares so much about LSSS students' academic performance. LSSS's Deputy School Head; Mrs. Onkabetse says they were expecting nothing less as John was a consistently excelling student. "He never got his eyes off the ball," she shared. She also said to have a Top Achiever for the second year running shows the school's turn around strategies like morning studies are working. For his part the captain of the ship, School Head Mr. Ponoesele described their moment of excellence as an honour and thanked the school's partners for helping them nurture their stars. "The business community and individuals have been very supportive in our efforts to make LSSS an academic leader in our area," he acknowledged. LSSS has a partnership with Charleston Academy in Scotland and take their students for an exchange programme to the Scottish school every two years. The school enjoys support from Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU), Motor Vehicle Fund (MVA), Morupule, Majoka Hardware and even from individuals and parents.



John had the opportunity to address LSSS students one last time where he lectured about planning and team work. He said planning is very important as it guides one



1. School Head Mr. Ponoesele
2. Deputy School Head Ms. Onkabetse
3. Head of House Mrs. Gobotswang

4. Class Teacher Ms. Molebatsi
5. John with his brother Benson and Mother Mary



Khumiso

'I Wanted to Shine'

Ledumang Senior Secondary School's former student Khumiso Letlhogile had only one thing in his mind when he sat for his BGCSE Examinations in 2015; he wanted to shine, an inspiration drawn from his predecessor Gorata Malose who made part of the previous edition of Top Achievers.

A debutant on the Excellence Award podium, the Molepolole born could only manage a Second Class back in JCE, his latest achievement might perhaps be seen as a 21st century miracle but Khumiso has a different view. "I worked harder than ever because I had a goal to achieve, it is not by luck," he said. The goal he refers to was to make sure his school remained on the map after Gorata Malose gave them bragging rights by featuring in the 6th Class of Excellence Awards. Ironically while a student at Ledumang, Gorata was in the same House as Khumiso. The House was headed by Mr. Gobe. The big question is how he leap-frogged from second class to be a Top Achiever with a whopping 7A*, 2As and 1B that qualified him for the elite Education Hub scholarship "It was high time I lived to my full potential so I pushed myself beyond limits," he emphasised. Though he left it to the wire to shine he did it in style, Khumiso finished as the overall Second Best student taking home a Ministerial Award to give his display cabinet a shiny touch as well.

To shine like a star Khumiso could not have made it alone, he had a good support system in his teachers. His Class Teacher Mrs. Barwabatsile described Khumiso as a child every parent would wish to have. "He gave himself extra work and followed teachers for help," she applauded. Barwabatsile said Khumiso's commitment to his studies was portrayed by his early bird tendencies, discipline and positive approach in everything he does. Mr. Gobe who knows the taste of producing a Top Achiever was Khumiso's Head of House (Molopo House). The jubilant

Gobe said he long saw that his Molopo River will over flow as it long started flowing when Khumiso started his Form 4. "I realised his potential from early days and always reminded him 8A* was possible, and he has retained our throne" he shared. Gobe further said Khumiso's class attained a 100% pass rate with the lowest student scoring 37 points. "I always told his class they were the best in the school and could be the best in the country and the best in the world and they did not disappoint me," he revealed.

Mr. Sedimo, the Deputy School Head said the whole school is excited about their opportunity to shine and defined the moment as electric and fantastic. Sedimo said their fantastic and electric moment came about as a result of team work by both the teachers and students. His words are seconded by his captain School Head Mrs. Othusitse who credited parents, all stakeholders and well-wishers for helping them turn around the image of the school. Othusitse speaks highly of Khumiso's discipline. "If a child is focused and disciplined, it is easy to pass," she noted.

Though he is a last born in a family dominated by male siblings Khumiso is not a spoilt brat, he knows the feeling of sweat from doing household chores like sweeping and cooking. His mother Elizabeth Letlhogile counts herself lucky to have such an amazing son. "I am very grateful, many kids of his generation are not as grounded as he is, I am very lucky," she highlighted. That his mother is proud of him is not disguised by the shy character that usually cannot be concealed in the presence of visitors as she was showering him with praises; "oh my boy!"

Khumiso says he loves what many students see as a nightmare; Mathematics, so he will study Actuarial Science upon completing his A Levels. Shine, Shine like a star Ministerial Award Recipient 2015!



1. School Head Mrs. Othusitse
2. Deputy School Head Mr. Sedimo
3. Head of House Mr. Gobe

4. Class Teacher Mrs. Barwabatsile
5. Khumiso with his mother and elder brother



BOTSWANA
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Excellence Awards



GOLDEN STAR
GOLDEN STAR

John Mwangi Gitonga



PRESIDENTIAL AWARD RECIPIENT BGCSE 2015





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Rising Above Circumstances



Kesegofetse

From Zwenshambe village in the North East is a young woman who believes that circumstances should not define one's destiny. Kesegofetse Rauwe the second runner up in the 2015 BGCSE Top achievers pursued excellence in the blue and white colours of Mater Spei College (MSC) who are proud to have two former students amongst the 2015 BGCSE best ten.

Being counted amongst the best is a familiar ground for Kesegofetse as she was top student in her school scooping majority of prizes during the prize giving ceremony. Mrs Makale, Kesegofetse's class teacher says she was a grounded student who would never be found in wrong places. Her Head of House at school Mr Zambe said other students must strive to be like Kesegofetse by having goals to work towards achieving. "She was a self-motivated student, we did less to push her to do her best," he said. Mr. Zambe further described his student as a hardworking selfless student who was always willing to help her peers. Deputy School Headmaster Mr. Mongwewarona sees Kesegofetse's moment of glory as testimony that the school's weekly themes are useful and benefit students who use them for their academic excellence. He said their star has long proven her mettle with her consistent excellent performance over her two years at MSC.

MSC School Headmaster attributed Kesegofetse's glory to parents' active participation in their child's education, a culture he said almost all Mater Spei College parents maintained. "Our secret is instilling confidence in students, and make them believe they can," he revealed. He said students of Kesegofetse's calibre take the teachings on excellence to heart hence her outstanding performance that did not come as a surprise.

At school Kesegofetse gave her former colleagues a dose of wisdom as they are in a quest for excellence. The soft spoken but very confident and composed young lady braved the cold morning as she addressed an assembly at MSC. "I aimed for the sky and I achieved far greater than the sky, more than I ever thought I would achieve," she said to the applause of the very attentive student audience.

She said her success came about as a result of having the desire to learn and being passionate about it, adding that learning was not a by the way routine.

From the school the profiling team made a stop at the Rauwes' residence where they enjoyed a warm welcome, where the team discovered that Kesegofetse's humility is a result of an apple that did not fall far from the tree; her parents are as humble. Her mother Patricia Rauwe was very happy and could not believe she was being interviewed and captured on camera all because of her daughter who has made them all proud. She said they used to wake up at night to keep their star company as she was busy reading, as a way of showing their support towards her studies. Smiles are contagious amongst the Rauwes as her father Person Rauwe struggles to conceal his smile during the interview. He is proud that their efforts have borne fruit. "We are very happy, and we have earned this happiness by working hard over the years," he said. He says his daughter is very humble, disciplined and quite, adding that she never broke ground rules like getting home later than 7.00 pm.

The God fearing young lady who was raised under Christian values of The Old Apostle Church (OAC) by staunch Christians in her mother and father perhaps why her first words when asked to motivate her peers are, "Listen to your mother and God will bless you." She emphasised that she studied hard not because her parents sent her to school but it came from the heart and said former MSC top achiever Unoda Sankoloba who was first runner up in the class of 2013 inspired her: "I am happy I have rewarded my parents for everything they have done for me and their support," she paid tribute.

For believing that she can rise above circumstances and achieve success if she is determined and passionate about what she does, her 7A* and 2As have earned her an Education Hub Scholarship to study A Levels before heading probably to her tertiary school of choice Oxford University where she would be happy to study Bio Chemistry with the ultimate dream being forming part of the team that would ultimately produce local pharmaceuticals. We wish you all the best.

1. Deputy Head Mr. Mongwewarona
2. Head of House Mr. Zambe
3. Class Teacher Mrs. Makale

4. Some of the Accolades she received from Mater Spei
5. Kesegofetse's and her proud parents.



Tlamelo

‘Failing is miserable’

Once beaten twice shy’ so goes the old saying’. Tlamelo Malima suffered the pain of failing to live up to her full potential when she sat for her JCE and vowed never again when she started her BGCSE at Naledi Senior Secondary School. She is one the country’s best ten students from the 2015 BGCSE cohort.

“When I saw my JCE results I became miserable,” confessed Tlamelo. Though she had passed convincingly well, she could not stomach the misery of failing to reach her target even though she knew she was capable. Tlamelo however did not let the pain of not so satisfying results put her down, she started her Form 4 determined to make amends for her slip up; and this she said called for working smart, hard and focused. “It is not a walk in the park but it can be a piece of cake if you work hard, smart and remain focused,” she advised Naledi students.

Tlamelo revealed that though her main motivation was the determination to live up to her very best she also knew there was a bonus at the end of it all, being bestowed a Top Ten Excellence Award recipient honour and becoming an elite scholarship beneficiary. She advised Naledi Senior Secondary School students to copy her and make sacrifices by putting more effort in their school work. She said if they follow what she told them they would definitely be rewarded. Tlamelo told her former school mates that she sacrificed a lot of things that mattered less like quitting Facebook which she said could be a big distraction to learners. “Have hope and faith even when you fail, when you have worked hard you know you will improve,” she shared. Tlamelo who had quite a lot to tell her Naledi SSS juniors further advised them to use technology to their advantage. She said with technology they can make studying fun like recording themselves when reading, a tactic that worked for her: “I am so happy and relieved; the tiring hardwork I put in has been rewarded. I am now reaping what I sow,” the deserving star said with pride.

Ms. Magamole was Tlamelo’s Class Teacher during her two year stay at Naledi and has nothing but a positive conviction of her cool, collected and easy going student who knew what she wanted. “She dedicated all her two years here to her studies,”

she said. Ms. Magamole emphasised that Tlamelo meant business and as such her results did not surprise them as they did not expect anything less. Tlamelo’s Head of House Mrs. Keatimilwe describes Tlamelo the same way as Ms. Magamole; positive, hard working and obedient. “She responded well to advice,” said Keatimilwe.

Mr. Othusitse, Naledi SSS School Head has for the third time a reason to be proud and he says his school’s consistent featuring in the BGCSE Top Ten, making it for the third time in a row, did not come about as a third time luck but is due to hardwork. “Our students have an objective and our teachers are determined to continue the legacy of excelling,” he said. Mr. Othusitse went on to pay gratitude to the parents for supporting them in their quest to keep improving, and also thanked their Alumni Association which he said is very supportive to the school initiatives.

Tlamelo, a first born of three and the only daughter in the family, as expected, knows her way around the kitchen and is familiar with other household chores, responsibilities her mother Ms. Sifelani Malima said she does to perfection. Ms. Sifelani Malima said her daughter promised the family to make them happy when the results come out so her achievement did not come as a surprise but that they are nonetheless still excited and cannot believe it. “She called me from Nata informing me the results have been released and she cannot believe her grades. I had to confirm them online,” said the jubilant mother. Yes it was real she had scored 6A*, 2As and a C, the excited parent immediately spread the news to her family. Ms. Malima sees her daughter’s triumph as a good foundation to the family’s coming generations adding that she has taken the family name to greater heights. Her advice to parents is to be supportive and be friends with their children for easy monitoring and guidance so that they do not derail into wrong doings.

Tlamelo thanked his young brother whom she says borrowed novels from his school library in his name for her to satisfy her reading cravings. Tlamelo is studying A Levels at Rainbow Private School, sponsored by Education Hub.



1. School Head Mr. Othusitse
2. Head of House Mrs. Keatimilwe
3. Class Teacher Mrs. Magamole

4. Tlamelo motivating Naledi Senior School students
5. Tlamelo with her mother and siblings



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‘I had to be Focused’



Sekondeko

One of the 2015 BGCSE top achievers Sekondeko Sewelo confessed that he almost lost focus but thanks to the guidance he received from his parents and teachers, he ultimately managed to control himself and remain focused. His focus was not for nothing as the young man is one of the only two representing the second city's oldest secondary school, Francistown Senior Secondary School (FSSS).

Shakawe born Sekondeko was initially admitted at Letlhakane Senior Secondary School as a boarding student, but his parents thought it would be best for him if he went to stay with his sister and brother-in-law in Francistown. Despite having achieved what remains a dream to many by finishing amongst the best ten 2015 BGCSE candidates earning himself an Excellence Award, he admits it almost did not happen as he almost lost focus. "If it was not for my teachers and parents I could not be here today," he shared. Sekondeko performed poorly in History during the mid-year examinations and resolved that was the end of him and the subject. He then decided to drop History from his preferred subjects when he registered for the final examination and registered only eight of the nine subjects. However, his Head of House Ms. Gabanamotse came to his rescue with the intervention of another history teacher who advised Sekondeko that he needed all the subjects and that he should be positive and treat them equally, guess what, Sekondeko got an A* for 'History!' The A* that helped him qualify for the elite Education Hub scholarship that he could have missed should he have not registered for History.

The guidance that helped him to remain focused even when he seemed to be losing hope was not a one man's show, his Class Teacher Mrs. Matenge also had put a notable effort in the young man's success. Mrs. Matenge says she took advantage of the time she spent with her students every morning to motivate them. "I used to take Top Achievers profiling booklet to my class and challenged all of them to emulate the previous stars to also make it to the book, and have myself as their class teacher featured as well," she chuckles as she narrates her winning motivational story. Matenge credits Sekondeko's victory to self-discipline as he was a reserved student who never wanted to be in trouble. The Head of House, Ms. Gabanamotse, who held the sharp edge of the blade like a typical mother, is also delighted that their belief in Sekondeko has yielded results. "He seemed to doubt himself at times especially when he was not pleased with his results but we talked to him

and he promised to put more effort and he did" she said. She revealed that though he posed qualities of a responsible leader, Sekondeko refused to campaign for leadership positions in school like that of Student Representative Committee (SRC) or that of a prefect.

Deputy School Head Mr. Makole is also in high spirits saying their turn around strategies have brought positive results sooner than anticipated. His excitement is not only because they have two students as Top Achievers but the school has done very well too. "Three years ago we were at the bottom of the list of all the twenty eight senior schools and we are now amongst the top ten for the second year running," he boasted. He said their victory was testimony that commitment is key in getting the best out of oneself. The FSSS School Head Mr. Tabona's happiness couldn't be confused for anything else; he was all smiles as he narrated what he termed the FSSS Experience. "Our success was not by accident but it is a well-conceived design," he emphasised. Mr. Tabona shared that his school used to have serious discipline issues which hindered good performance, he stated that facing the problem head-on and working hand in hand with the parents has since transformed their school positively. He said indiscipline has since become a thing of the past hence their improvement in academic seeding. However, Mr. Tabona was quick to point out that theirs is still a work in progress as cultivating the culture of excellence takes time. He extended some gratitude to the Northern Cluster Schools in particular Mater Spei College for working hand in hand and raising the Northern Region academic flag high.

During his school days in the city of Francistown, Sekondeko lived under the care of his sister and brother-in-law. His brother-in-law Mr. Mosenya described the young man as a self-disciplined and respectful child, traits he attributes to his upbringing under Tswana values by his mother back home in Shakawe. "He treats me with respect like I am his biological parent," he said. Mosenya said it was so fulfilling to see that their efforts as parents worked. Speaking at his home in Francistown, Sekondeko expressed gratitude for the support his parents afforded him in his academic journey and implored his juniors to copy him and that they should believe they too can make it. "Perfection is attainable if you work hard towards your target," he advised.

Sekondeko is still thinking about a career path to venture into upon completion of his A Levels, his mother would love for him to become a Medical Doctor.

1. School Head Mr. Tabona
2. Deputy School Mr. Makole
3. Head of House Ms. Gabanamotse

4. Class Teacher Mrs. Matenge
5. Sekondeko pictured with his classmate and one of FSSS Top Achievers Tebo Simon.



Pholo

Books are Education

Gumare born Pholo Motshidisi defied the odds by finishing amongst the best ten candidates who sat for BGCSE examinations in 2015, this he achieved despite his school Shakawe Senior Secondary School (SSSS) having been ranked lowest in the previous years.

In Pholo's world the environment where one studies matters less in their quest for excellence. His strong belief is that, wherever there are books there is education. He said "Shakawe Senior Secondary School has books that is why I excelled in my studies and made it to the 2016 BGCSE top ten" Pholo's journey was not as beautiful as his results, he received overwhelming advice from well-wishers to transfer to better performing schools or else start writing his academic obituary. This was so because his school was perceived to be a poor performing institution by most people. In the midst of all the voices telling him to go, there was one well-wisher who solved the puzzle for him e; he asked him an interesting question "who will make Shakawe proud if you run away?" That question has today proved to have been a blessing in disguise.

Pholo's Head of House told the BEC team that he was a down to earth student who did not like showing off; "you would even miss him until excelling students were called up to the stage on prize giving day, an event he dominated, you would even think of attaching his name to it as he made it his own". He was a disciplined student with leadership traits; he would voluntarily take charge of his class in the absence of his teachers, said the Head of House.

"Pholo was very dedicated, I sometimes got worried that he would burn out from the work load," expressed his delighted Biology and Class Teacher Mr. Matlhare. Mr. Matlhare also attributed Pholo's success to his parents' commitment to his education as they closely monitored his performance and bought him text books from their own pockets. Mr. Matlhare's assertions were once again corroborated by Pholo's Head of House who just like his class teacher talked highly of his student's good conduct. He revealed that he never had to punish Pholo. He compared Pholo's level of concentration and focus to that of a Fish Eagle. He wants nothing but the best for himself, said the Head of House.

Pholo's achievements has boosted confidence of the Shakawe Senior Secondary School students, the teachers and the community at large. Everyone had lost hope in the school before his excellent perfor-

mance, remarked the School Deputy Headmaster Mr. Mahudinga. "Parents were doubting our efforts and transferring their excelling students to other schools". Mahudinga attached Pholo's triumph to team work by all the stakeholders, including teachers, students and parents who worked hand in hand to improve the school's academic performance.

Despite his intelligence Pholo knew that it is only through hard work, discipline and focus that he would be counted amongst the best to make his village of Gumare and Shakawe Senior Secondary School proud. Called on to inspire his former colleagues at a packed SSSS assembly he lectured them about believing in oneself. "If you believe you can then you can," he advised. Pholo expressed his happiness to having revived the hopes of those that had given up. The God fearing star acknowledged God's guidance in his not so smooth journey saying just like it happened to him God's hand can reach anyone wherever they are. He quoted Proverbs 9:10 'the fear of the lord is wisdom.' "A miracle has happened; something least expected has come out from a least expected school, it is talked about again and now in a positive way," he said to the applause of his peers. You could tell they now have hope and confidence and believed they also could do it.

Away from his boarding school, at home Pholo is a grounded well raised Tswana child who does not wait for the early morning Roster alarm to get out of his bed and attend home chores. Though she was supportive by never missing any school function and meetings and being there for his academic welfare, Pholo's mother Keitshetse Bosekwang admits her son exceeded her expectations. "I am overwhelmed with emotions, he has made me proud," the soft spoken mother said with a smile. His uncle Isaiah Bosekwang singled out Pholo's discipline as the best weapon in his arsenal. "He stayed away from bad company and has always been a humble boy," he applauded his nephew.

A first time Excellence Award recipient sees his moment of glory as just the beginning of good things yet to come. Upon completing his A Levels sponsored by the Education Hub through their elite sponsorship programme he aspires to study Electronic Engineering. Pholo reckons there is more to know about electricity and how it can benefit man than the little that is already documented.



1. Head of House Mr. Oageng
2. Deputy School Head Mr Mahudinga
3. Class Teacher Mr Matlhare

4. Pholo motivating Shakawe Senior School students.
5. Pholo's proud family.



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Work hard to be the Best



Tebo

Representing Francistown Senior Secondary School in the BGCSE Top Achievers is Tebo Simon who believed in working hard and being the best. His strive to be the best was rewarded with 6A* and 3As earning him an Excellence Award for finishing in the National Top Ten and the Education Hub elite scholarship.

The young man who hails from Shoshong though his parents have now found home in Serowe refuses to go with the majority that believe one's background determines one's future, "I beg to differ with those who think your background should influence you," he said. He pointed out that if you are from a poor background, that should be your motivation to work hard at school as education will be your ticket out of hardship. He also argues that even if your family is well off you still have reason to work even harder so that you do not become the odd one out. Tebo called on FSSS students to put their academic life on top of their priority list. He also encouraged them not to be shy to take time out to play games like chess and other sports as they are good for physical and mental wellbeing.

Tebo's Class Teacher Mrs. Matenge also had a notable contribution towards the young man's success. Mrs. Matenge said she made sure that she spent enough time with her students to check how everyone was doing academically and socially, this she said improved the pupils performance. "Tebo has made me very proud, it shows my advice did not fall on deaf ears," she said with a smile. Matenge described Tebo as a school loving student who was forever humble before his teachers even amongst his peers. Ms. Gabanamotse who was Tebo's Head of House echoed his Class Teacher's opinion that he was a level headed student who you would never even think he had anything to show off because he was not into showing off, "he lets his grades make the noise not him," joked Gabanamotse.

Deputy School Head Mr. Makole said Tebo's hardwork proved to be very instrumental to his success: "He always aimed to be the best and this is through nothing else but hardwork". Makole emphasised that Tebo's determination to score higher points should be taken by his peers and juniors as exemplary and very important

to their future, "We are very proud and excited as the school management to produce two best students in one academic year, it really shows that our strategic objectives are being achieved " said Makole. Makole indicated that three years ago they were trailing behind all the twenty eight senior secondary schools, he now boasts that his school has been amongst the best top ten schools for the second year running. He said their victory was testimony that commitment is key in getting the best out of oneself.

The FSSS School Head Mr. Tabona was evidently happy as he termed their success as the FSSS Experience. "Our success was not by accident but it is a well-conceived design," he emphasised. Tabona shared that his school used to have serious discipline issues which hindered good performance but working hand in hand with the parents helped a big deal in improving the school and students academic performance..Tabona also extended his gratitude to the Northern Cluster schools, Mater Spei College in particular for jointly working with them to raise the Northern Region's academic flag high.

It was a joyous moment at Tebo's parents' home in Serowe. When the BEC team arrived, his father Mr. Moses Maitane could not contain his happiness about his son's glory. Mr. Maitane still recalls the happiness Tebo's mother Dikano Maitane had when the BGCSE results were published. "He has made us proud, I never knew what tears of joy are until his results made his mother cry", Mr. Maitane. Moses recalled. Mrs. Maitane praised her son whom she said is active in both school work and house chores. "He has filled my heart with joy, I could not ask for more," said the proud mother. Tebo's reserved and humble persona is not only confined to the school perimeters, his parents describe him in the same fashion as his teachers. A good cook at home Tebo is said to cook better than anyone in the house, at least according to his father. His mother enjoys his dumpling dish more. Tebo said despite having academic work load he did not have a problem with helping at home.

Tebo is now doing his A Levels at Livingstone Kolobeng College and would love to go to London School of Economics to study Actuarial Science, this is so because of his love for Mathematics.

1. School Head Mr. Tabona
2. Deputy School Mr Makole
3. Head of House Ms Gabanamotse

4. Class Teacher Mrs. Matenge
5. Tebo pictured with his parents and little sisters.



Lebogang

Haunted By Own Potential

Librarian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said if your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough. Lebogang Mooketsi a former Mater Spei College student was not only scared by her dreams but was haunted by her potential and this pushed her to work hard for a spot in the 2015 BGCSE Top Achievers.

Like her colleague Kesegofetse Rauwe, Lebogang's outstanding performance is no surprise as she has always done well. Though winning is her habit she is a first time recipient of an Excellence Award, an accolade she chased for five (5) years after learning about the importance of excellent results while a form I student. Unfortunately, she could not make the cut at JCE. Perseverance and believing that she also can be counted amongst the best helped her make it to the Excellence Awards Stage at BGCSE. "I knew I was destined for greatness, my potential haunted me so much I could not sleep at night," she said with relief.

The Serowe born young lady is described by her Class Teacher who also taught her Setswana Mrs. Jeremiah as a humble and focused dreamer. An epitome of a focused student Lebogang seldom got less than an A* in her subjects. Ms. Hubona her Head of House holds the same perception that Lebogang was a focused dreamer, they even use her as a good example to other students. "She believed in herself and never wanted to be defeated," she reminisced. Hubona further said upon realising her potential she often took her to the headmaster's office for motivational talks as a way of making sure she keeps her eyes on the ball.

For his part Deputy School Head and Head of Academics, Mr. Mongwewarona said it is fulfilling to see students maintaining good performance until their final examinations. "We are now confident that we nurture our students well," he said. Mr. Munyere the school Head said they are proud of their consistent performance and it gives their students confidence. "Schools in the north work together and benchmark from each other, we

take pride in doing well as a cluster," he revealed.

Lebogang shared her success story with her young peers at MSC who gathered at an assembly on a cold morning to come to celebrate with one of their own. She said they must believe in themselves, should always be positive and never give up. Lebogang said former MSC 2013 BGCSE Top Achiever Karabo Sankoloba who attained 8A* during his time showed her that it is possible, as he loved knowledge. "If you believe it in your mind that you are going to get to the top, then you have already done half the job, all you need to do is work hard," she advised. She said she was excited and proud that she was amongst the best. She confessed that she had to push through all difficulties and setbacks to emerge successful.

When it comes to household chores Lebogang is like any normal child, she knows what is expected of her as a daughter and does not disappoint her mother who says even her friends always praise her daughter to be a well groomed child. She says her daughter avoids having friends and is always reading even during school vacations, such that when she has exhausted her academic material she would read anything she comes across. "I made sure I bought her revision books and this helped her a lot in preparing for examinations".

Like any parent who closely monitors their children's academic performance she was not surprised when the cell phone screen displayed 6A* and 3As when they checked the results. "I am still moved by her performance," she said.

Lebogang will pursue her Education Hub sponsored A Levels at Livingstone Kolobeng College and would like to study Finance as it brings her favourite worlds together - mathematics and business.



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1. School Head Mr. Munyere
2. Head of House Mrs. Hubona
3. Class Teacher Mrs. Jeremiah

4. Lebogang with one of the MSC higher flyer Kesegofetse Rauwe.
5. Lebogang with her mother.



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Have a dream



Oreeditse

Oreeditse Mogobye of St Joseph's College had a dream and worked hard towards achieving it. Her confidence in her dream being attainable came from inspiration drawn from another former St Joseph's College student Thato Willie who finished as the third best BGCSE student in 2014 earning herself the Botswana Examination Council Chairman's Award.

Oreeditse still recalls the cold morning when she was still a Form 5 student when Thato gave them a motivational talk at the assembly. She said Thato told them that her brilliance was not a result of a miracle but working hard towards a dream and believing in oneself. "Her speech echoed in my memory until my last paper," she reminisced. Oreeditse, a devoted Christian, advises that trusting in God alone is not enough; it works best coupled with hardwork and determination not to fail set objectives.

The Mochudi born young lady did not leave alone in her dreamland she shared it with her teachers and credits her Class Teacher and Chemistry teacher who always asked her to make them proud. "They would like to see me featured in the 7th Stars Magazine and make them proud," she acknowledged. Oreeditse said she put the 6th Stars Magazine in her room and seeing it every day could even cheer her up on a bad day.

Oreeditse Class Teacher, Ms. Makopola who fuelled her confidence in pursuit of her dream to be amongst the Top Ten students by always challenging her to make her proud recalls Oreeditse as an easy to deal with respectful child who knew a student's duty is to learn. "She is one of the only three who got an A* for Biology, a subject I taught her," said the proud Makopola.

Ms. Obusitse, her Head of House captions Oreeditse as a competitive child who was concerned with nothing but her studies. "She was so good she received corporal punishment only once for forgetting her Science book at home," Obusitse recalled. She said Oreeditse cared less about nothing but education so much that she always kept natural short and manageable hair: Oreeditse who finished as the overall Form 4 student pledged to attain 48 points and she did it.

St Joseph's Deputy School Head stated that just like her name translates, she was an attentive and a humble student who did what was expected of her. "She is of a unique calibre, she was self-driven," he praised. The Deputy School Head emphasised that the school's consistent academic excellence was as a result of good team work spirit amongst staff members and a good leader in the School Head. "Our mission is simply to dominate," he pointed out.

St. Joseph's College School Head, Ms. Male, said the school's Culture of Excellence is made possible by team work, spirituality, result analysis and close supervision. "Teachers and students must know the purpose of being at school, and we shall have desired results in return," Ms. Male said. She acknowledged parents' immense contribution saying they take their children's education seriously. On Oreeditse's triumph, Ms. Male said the young lady was a focused learner who was never caught wondering around the school premises as she was always reading.

Oreeditse did not only make her school and teachers proud, her family is also in high spirits about one of their own's achievement and they are living the dream with her. Her father Mr. Kobedi Mogobye is very excited and said his children have come out exactly the way he raised them. "I always taught them to pursue greatness and she has done exactly that," said the happy Mr. Mogobye. Her mother Mmaletsatsi Mogobye said she was thankful to God for guiding her daughter to excellence. Her aunt Kgalalelo Kefenyegile attached her niece's achievement to being a humble child who took advice from other people with respect. "She refused to have a mobile phone citing fear of distraction and rarely watched television" she said.

Oreeditse's eldest brother Oabona concurs with the aunt that her sister listened to advice. "I sat her down and we set a goal that she must finish in the Top Ten," he shared. Her other brother Onneile exudes nothing but confidence that Oreeditse will continue to shine and will make her dream of becoming a medical doctor come true.

Oreeditse is currently studying her A Levels at Maruapula through the Education Hub elite scholarship.

1. School Head Ms. Male
2. Deputy School Head Mr. Setumo
3. Head of House Ms. Obusitse

4. Class Teacher Ms. Makopola
5. Oreeditse's proud parents and her aunt.



Kealeboga

'I Believed Right'

Foundation for my success is in right believing. I believed right about myself, I believed right about my school, I believed right about God and I believed right about success. These are words of Ramotswa Senior Secondary School's pride - Kealeboga Ntshwene who set for his 2015 BGCSE examinations in their colours and finished amongst the Top Achievers.

Kealeboga refused to listen to negative advice from people who condemned Kagiso Senior Secondary School to be a bad school for him since one had ever passed with flying colours from the Ramotswa based school. "I said thank you, I love breaking virgin grounds, I love defying the odds, I am going there," he remained positive. His positive attitude did not let him down. He is now enjoying the last laugh and his doubters must be in shock and wondering how he defied the odds; it is simple - he believed right. This he confessed he did not do to prove anyone wrong, but it is an own set goal achieved.

His class teacher Mr. Mazebe who also taught him Chemistry classified the young man as a well-rounded child who related well with other people and was always happy to help his classmates with school work and even chores. He said Kealeboga always made first impressions to prove his mettle. "His commitment was amazing, his participation in our first lesson showed he was bound to excel," he said. Mr. Same who served as Kealeboga's Head of House was also impressed by his humility as the young man related well with students from all classes. "He is a future leader," he said. His humility is a charm that even the school cook Mr. Baleseng picked up, making him a darling of the school. "He is well mannered and we all wished him well, we are happy he gave us something to show off after so many years on the side lines," said Baleseng.

Deputy School Head, Mr. Ojang attributed Kealeboga's brilliance to his hard work and said they were not surprised about the dividends he enjoyed at the end of the day. He noted that the success was a team effort and singled out what they call 'operation vuka' as one of their winning formula components. Ojang said through 'operation vuka' they would do spot

checks on teachers and this kept them on their toes. Kagiso Senior Secondary School Head, Ms. Dladla said their school is in a transformation phase trying to restore discipline and instil confidence in the students. "We worked hand in hand with the Tribal Authority to help us discipline the students," she revealed. Despite the school being marred by ill-discipline Kealeboga was one of a handful that held good morals and even motivated other students as a way of supporting the school's transformation bid. This he did by amongst others occasionally borrowing the School Head's books to read and he would later share the summarised version with his schoolmates at the assembly.

The somewhat shy Kealeboga is perceived mostly as a God fearing young man at home; his Mother, Grandmother, Uncle and Aunt all spoke with emphasis about his love for the gospel on top of his other qualities. His mother expressed delight at her son's achievement and advised him to remain focused. "We are very excited, it is a first in our family to have such academic brilliance," she revealed. His grandmother couldn't help it but to ululate before praising her grandson for having made history not only in the family but in the village as well. Kealeboga's uncle and aunt applauded their nephew for being a man of faith and attributed spiritual guidance to his achievement.

The Geological Engineering aspirant does not speak highly of the Almighty only but discipline as well. "It is of no use to pass and be disrespectful, hard work will take you to the top but it takes character to sustain you up there," he cautioned. The young man who quotes mostly from Charles Theodore said he had to seek God's intervention in his last lap to avoid panic as passing mattered most.

Kealeboga also earned himself the Education Hub elite scholarship to study A Levels after which he will pursue Geological Engineering though he had loved to be an Aerospace Engineer only to realise that it is restricted profession unlike geology which extends to various disciplines.



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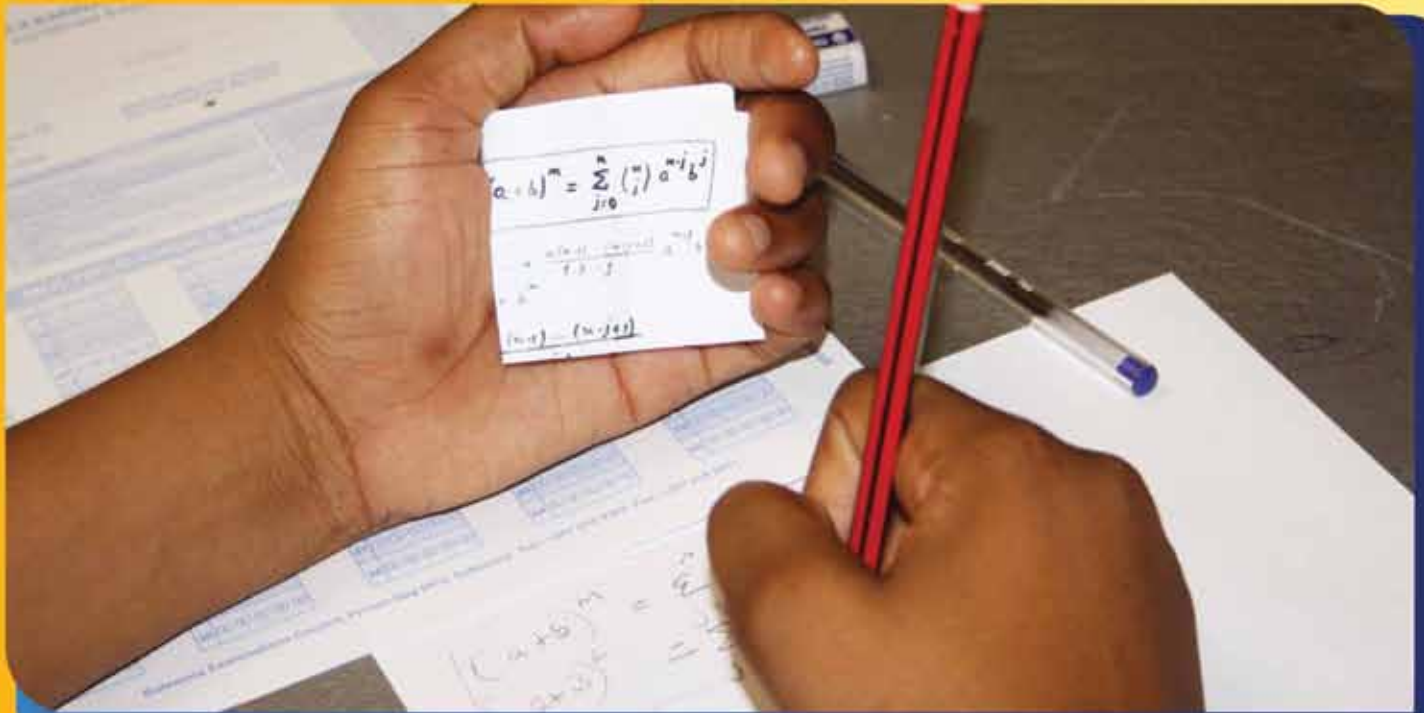


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Stop Examinations Malpractice



Malpractice involves a deliberate act of wrongdoing, contrary to official examination rules, and is designed to place a candidate at an unfair advantage or disadvantage.

DETECTION OF MALPRACTICE

School heads, chief invigilators, invigilators, supervisors and Examination Council officials provide much of the evidence for malpractice. Evidence is also provided by candidates, parents and the public who witness malpractice, and from others disillusioned by the failure of bribed officials to deliver the expected level of support.

Examinations malpractice is a serious offence punishable by law. Any person who commits an offence shall be liable on conviction to a fine not less than P5 000.00 but not more than P8 000.00 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

All enquiries and reports of examinations malpractice should be reported to the Executive Secretary Botswana Examinations Council either by form of writing or in person.

Corporate Communications Office

Botswana Examinations Council Private Bag 0070 Gaborone, Botswana
Plot 54864, KT Motsete Rd, Tel: +267 3650700/910 Fax: +267 3105313
www.bec.co.bw



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