

MADUO

Advancing learning, certifying your future



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER |
Vol. 1 ISSUE 8 APRIL 2016



BEC and BPS sign a Memorandum of Understanding



Botswana Examinations Council Executive Secretary, Prof. Brian Mokopakgosi and the Botswana Police Service Acting Commissioner Victor Brunuh Paledi during the signing ceremony. [Story on Page 4](#)



Charles Keikotlhae
Senior Corporate
Communications Officer

Welcome to BEC nesletter "Maduo", issue number 8 of Volume I 2016.

In tandem with its Vision of providing accessible and globally competitive qualifications, thanks to the Malepa system, BEC has recently introduced the online registration and payment in partnership with Orange Botswana through the Orange Mobile Money platform and FNB through their electronic channels; Online banking, Cellphone banking, ATM with deposits, FNB App, *174# Mobile transact and through the branches.

With the online registration and payment, candidates, especially the private ones, will no longer need to travel all the way from far flung places like Maun or Ghanzi to come and register at BEC in Gaborone. They only need an access to the internet, orange money platform or FNB to register, pay and print their statements of entry.

This is a forward leap in improving access to BEC examinations by leveraging what technology can offer:

Apart from the use of technology through opportunities offered by the Botswana Natinal Examinations Processing System (BNEPS) or Malepa as popularly known, BEC continues to encourage examinations centres (schools) to apply for special consideration and or access arrangements with the Council well in time for their students who have special needs or have circumstances that could impinge negatively in their examinations preparations. We are therefore glad that through Malepa and our Special Needs Office, BEC continues to work towards the realisation of its Vision.

Please enajoy and give us feedback where we need to improve.

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.

Vision

To be a provider of accessible and globally competitive qualifications.

Core Values

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Transparency
- People Focus

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Published by

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Molao pays BEC a visit



Assistant Minister of Education and Skills Development (MOESD) Honourable Fidelis Molao.

By Charles Keikotlhae

Assistant Minister of Education and Skills Development (MOESD) Honourable Fedelis Molao says his visit to Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) on the 29th February 2016 was an opportunity to introduce himself, adding that the visit will be followed up by a more fruitful one where issues of concern could be deliberated over without the constraints of time.

Addressing the BEC Executive Management Team and responding to some of the issues raised by BEC Executive Secretary Professor Brian Mokopakgosi during welcome remarks, Honourable Molao stated that there are a number of Bills for the current sitting of Parliament and that with such a congested schedule, it will depend on how the Speakership of Parliament is convinced so as to allow BEC Transformation Bill to be tabled in the current sitting.

He pointed out that MOESD has been operating without a Legal Advisor and relied on the

Attorney General's Chambers hence the delay with the tabling of the BEC Transformation Bill. However, he stated that MOESD has since employed a Legal Advisor which will make things easier going forward.

On other issues, he welcomed the idea of looking into other avenues of raising funds for BEC since the national budget is getting smaller. Molao said it was important for BEC to benchmark within the region for a feasible costing model for running national examinations.

Honourable Molao expressed his worry regarding the continued failure during national examinations and wondered whether the Standard Four attainment test is effective, and that some people are even blaming the testing tools.

When welcoming the Minister, Professor Mokopakgosi pointed out that the delay in tabling and passing the BEC Bill by Parliament is worrisome as many things are stalling because of the delayed Bill.

BEC and BPS sign a Memorandum of Understanding



BEC's Legal Services Manager Mr. Kabelo Lebotse facilitating the signing agreement between Botswana Police Service and Botswana Examinations Council.

By Charles Keikotlhae

Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) and Botswana Police Service (BPS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for collaboration over the running of the national examinations.

Welcoming the Acting Commissioner of Police Bruno Paledi to BEC for the MOU on Tuesday, 23rd February 2016, BEC Executive Secretary Professor Brian Mokopakgosi expressed his delight that finally the day to sign the MOU has arrived.

Professor Mokopakgosi stated that the process started some years back when the Commissioner of Police called and enquired on how they can assist BEC during the conduct of the national examinations and that, in turn, they sensitised the Commissioner on the mandate of BEC and pointed out how sensitive it is to run national examinations, adding that they indicated even the

day to day challenges encountered during the time of examinations. Professor Mokopakgosi told Acting Commissioner Victor Brunoh Paledi, who is also the BPS Deputy Commissioner Operations, that BEC conducts the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE), Junior Certificate Examination (JCE) and the Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) examination, all of which are high stake examinations. "Those at University, when there is an examination paper leak, the Professor can set new paper overnight which is not the case with national examinations hence it is important to ensure that the national examinations run smoothly" said Professor Mokopakgosi.

The BEC Executive Secretary explained that, for security reasons, examinations papers are printed in the United Kingdom (UK) and that after they arrive in Botswana; they are distributed across the country to different Examinations Centres.

He stated that from benchmarking lessons, it has become apparent that there is need to prepare for natural disasters like flooding hence the need for Botswana Police in instances like that. Professor Mokopakgosi also highlighted challenges of fraud from within and outside BEC as the reasons why there is a need to collaborate with BPS. He stated that sometimes an urgent investigation is needed so as not to delay the release of the examination results thus the need to have collaboration with BPS.

Professor Mokopakgosi also Paledi and his colleagues that with the examinations centres spread all over the country and around 230 PSLE centres, the examinations papers could be stored at police stations during distribution and when transported back to BEC.

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Advances in online payment for private candidates

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He pointed out that his hope is that BEC and BPS will continue to nurture the relationship and make changes to the MOU as and when the need arises.

In response, Paledi, also expressed his gratitude for the MOU and underscored the fact that, it took a long time to conclude on it as the police wanted to be clear on what it is expected of them. He stated that criminals see opportunities everywhere and it is important to be ahead of them. He said it is therefore important to establish a working committee on the MOU to be ahead of criminals.

The Acting Commissioner of Police also suggested that the two organisations should agree on tasks that clearly spell out who does what and that a benchmarking will also be beneficial. He revealed that a memo was written from Police Headquarters sometime back to all the four police branch Commanders across the country explaining the need for the security of examination papers.

Mr. Paledi requested BEC to keep the police abreast of what is happening so that even their staff can understand the examination processes; "we would also do our part," he promised.

Giving vote of thanks after, BEC Director of Examinations Administration and Certification Mrs. Dorcas Morake explained that BEC have zero tolerance for examinations malpractice and will work with the police to prevent it.

Mr. Paledi was accompanied by the BPS Acting Director of Operations Assistant Commissioner Joseph Motlhogodi and the Acting BPS Head of Legal Services Senior Superintendent Lesego Oremeng while Professor Mokopakgosi was with the BEC Executive Management Team.



Data Capture Assistant Boitumelo Lehoti assisting a candidate to complete the online registration using Malepa.

By Karabo Morule

Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) registration system has grown in leaps and bounds in recent years; from manual registration forms to computer based registration on Malepa. The system was built to make processing of examinations more convenient.

The development of Malepa was one of the first major steps towards keeping up with changes in the world and in technology for BEC and is now ready to take the next step.

BEC has grown with the changes brought by technology and has continually improved in order to ensure that its services are more accessible to its target audience.

Although online registration started a few years ago online payment only started in 2015, the same year BEC partnered with Orange Botswana to enable potential candidates to pay without having to come to BEC. In the past payments would only be made at BEC.

The partnership with Orange Botswana has continued into 2016 where payments are made through the Orange mobile money platform.

Malepa has now opened up a new

window for online payments to be more advanced. First National Bank of Botswana (FNBB) has partnered with BEC to enable payment of 2016 JCE and BGCE examinations for private candidates through the Bank's electronic channels; Online banking, Cellphone banking, ATM with deposits, FNB App, *174# Mobile transact and through the branches. Online payment via FNB system is the new kid on the block, enabling potential candidates to register on the Malepa system via their own devices (cell phone, Laptop or Desktop etc.) and then take a printed copy of their provisional statement of entry which will have the BEC bank account to any FNB branch where they will be able to pay over the counter. After paying, candidates will be able to go back to the system and print their final statement of entry.

BEC together with Orange and FNB have put together a communications strategy to ensure that the public is fully aware of this new development. The strategy includes radio interviews, advertorials, spot announcements and television interviews and social media platforms.. BEC is surely in step with its tag line of 'advancing learning, certifying your future'.

Dr.Thobega impressed by Rungwana Primary School



Dr.Thobega presenting a gift to one of the top achievers at Rungwana Primary School.



Dr.Thobega handing books and other teaching aids to Rungwana Primary School Head.

By Mpho Moilwa

In honour of an invite from Rungwana Primary School as a guest speaker to their victory party and prize giving ceremony, Dr. Moreetsi Thobega earnestly attended the four-hour ceremony.

As he stepped to the podium, he expressed his great admiration to the school in general, and particularly for consistently posting good PSLE results that were consistently above regional average.

Rungwana Primary School is situated in Thamaga, Rungwana Ward in the south side of the Village. It has a total enrolment of about 600 pupils. The 2014 PSLE results put the school above all the seven schools in Thamaga village and second in the Mogoditshane Thamaga sub-region with an 81.3% quality pass rate, something that needs to be applauded.

Dr.Thobega who is also an alumni of the school went down the memory lane and highlighted that the school did not only improve academically but had also grown in terms of facilities. He lamented that during their time there were very few pupils to the extend that the school had one class per level which in other ways resonated well with the theme of the event, 'small beginnings – great endings'. He encouraged the students to work hard and take their studies seriously if they wanted to succeed in life. He used his own story of starting from humble beginnings and ultimately achieving great things academically.

Dr. T, as he is famously referred to urged the students to focus on their education and avoid things that may distract them. He said that taking time out to play after school is not a bad thing, but they should make time to study and do

their school work. He challenged parents to be more involved in their children's learning; emphasising that it is not teachers responsibility only for pupils to excel in their studies.

He pleaded with parents to participate in Parents Teachers Associations (PTA's) activities so that they understand the school dynamics. He told the audience that educating pupils is a combined effort for both parents, students and teachers "*ke tshwaragano ya batsadi, barutabana le bana*"

Dr. Thobega pledged his continued support for the school and committed himself to engaging with his Rungwana Primary School class of their time, the likes of Minister of Transport and Communications, Honourable Tshenolo Mabeo and others to come together and ensure that they support the school that laid a foundation for their lives.



A happy parent pictured with her daughter who received a prize during the award ceremony.

Dr. Thobega praised the school leadership for their commitment and vision for the school. He alluded that from his perspective, and from the information given to him about how the school is being run, Rungwana Primary School operates more like a private school than the public one.

The guest speaker said “the level of engagement and communication with the parents and the general facilitation of pupils’ learning seem to align well with what we see happening in private schools, students even have a school journal in which parents are supposed to sign after helping their children with their homework everyday”.

At the end Dr. Thobega issued the School head with multiple of primary school level textbooks from the BEC Resource Centre as a corporate social responsibility gesture.



A representative from MoESD (left), accompanying Dr. Joseph Kivilu (middle) and Dr. Assupta Malei (right) during a courtesy call on Botswana Examinations Council.

By Charles Keikotlhae

The Kenyan National Examinations Council (KNEC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Joseph Kivilu together with KNEC Head of Research Dr. Assupta Malei paid a courtesy call on Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) on Thursday, 26th November 2015 to briefly share experiences in the conduct of examinations.

Dr. Kivilu told the BEC Executive Secretary, Professor Brian Mokopakgosi who was accompanied by Dr. Moreetsi Thobega and Mrs. Dorcas Morake that they did not have any specific agenda. The KNEC CEO stated that just like Botswana, they conduct both Primary and Secondary examinations but that in addition, they also administer Diploma examinations in Colleges as well as administer examinations on behalf of examinations bodies such as Cambridge International Examinations.

Dr. Kivilu said that they also host the National Assessment Centre on behalf of the Ministry of Education in Kenya. He pointed out that KNEC has been an examinations body since 1980 but continues to learn best practices from other examinations bodies, stating, “We are all transforming and benchmarking”.

He said that they borrow heavily from other African Countries Examination

Boards especially when giving awards and grades as they normally invite them to participate in such processes, adding that they use the conveyor belt model of marking adopted from one of the African countries. Responding to BEC trio of whether they use any automated examinations processing system, Dr. Kivilu and Dr. Malei responded in the negative but stated that they however have processes in place to ensure quality and compliance in their work.

Earlier on when welcoming the KNEC delegation, Professor Mokopakgosi said that BEC is embarking on developing a national assessment programme. He also shared with the KNEC officials the System level Transformation within the Ministry of Education and Skills Development which led to the transformation of former Tertiary Education Council into the Human Resources Development Council and former Botswana Training Authority into Botswana Qualifications Authority as well as the BEC which is to transform into a national assessment authority as high performance organisations.

The Kenyan duo was attending the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ) conference in Gaborone, Botswana.

Stephen Austin and Sons very particular about non-conformance



Stephen Austin and Sons representatives Mr. Cockram and Mr. Nunnerley.

By Charles Keikotlhae

Stephen Austin and Sons Limited Clients Services Director Mr. David Cockram says that the UK based printing company is very particular on non-conformance hence it is fantastic that Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) is happy with the printing of 2015 Examination papers.

Speaking during the review of 2015 Examination Programmes and Planning for the 2016 Examination Programmes meeting between BEC and the company in Gaborone, Mr Cockram stated that they look forward on how to improve products and services extended to BEC.

Mr. Cockram, who joined Stephen Austin and Sons last year and is from a Sales background, stated that they have dedicated two Executives within the Clients Services department namely; Laura Smith and Clive Nunnerley, the latter a BEC Account Manager who was accompanying Mr. Cockram for the annual review meeting.

He said the two are there to support BEC in whatever way they can to deliver to the client the good services and products.

During his welcoming remarks, Executive Secretary Professor Brian Mokopakgosi thanked the UK based

company for always being patient to allow BEC to properly carry out its tender processes. He encouraged managers who were present at the meeting to voice out challenges that might not have been addressed with the printing company.

Professor Mokopakgosi also thanked Stephen Austin and Sons for the handset software and noted that the software will enable business at BEC to flow smoothly, adding that the old one always had some challenges.

Responding to Mr. Cockram, BEC Director of Examinations Administration and Certifications Mrs. Dorcas Morake expressed gratitude that the 2015 examinations papers arrived earlier than the anticipated deadlines.

For her part, BEC Director of Product Development and Standards Mrs. Susan Makgothi stated that she was happy with the erratum assistance from Stephen Austin and Sons.



Executive Team pictured with Steven and Osman representatives during the latter's visit to BEC.

Quality Practices in General Education: What can higher education learn?



Executive Secretary Professor Brian Mokopakgosi making contributions to the Research paper:



Research and Policy Development Director Dr. Moreetsi

By Charles Keikotlhae

The establishment of Botswana Qualification Authority (BQA), Human Resources Development Council (HRDC), transformation of BEC and approval of Education and Training Strategic Sector Plan (ETSSP) are major inputs and process alignment activities targeted to achieving quality education, pointed out BEC Executive Secretary Professor Brian Mokopakgosi and BEC Director of Research and Policy Development Dr. Moreetsi Thobega.

Presenting a paper entitled "Quality Practices in General Education: What can Higher Education Learn" during the Southern African Quality Assurance Network (SAQAN) launch conference in Gaborone, the BEC duo added that global discourse in education gravitates around two issues, access and quality.

They stated that, currently, as captured in Statistics Botswana 2015 report, the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals 2030 targets inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. "All Policy instruments: Revised National Policy on Education (RNPEP, National Development Plan 10 (NDP 10), and lately Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan (ETSSP) emphasize, quality, relevance, equity, access

and global competitiveness of education for Botswana", Dr.Thobega pointed out.

The BEC Director for Research and Policy Development said quality education can only be achieved through robust quality assurance processes within the system, and that quality assurance in education and quality of education go hand in hand.

He stated that Botswana's education system is still operating at input and processes level so as to achieve quality education as observed in the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) where quality assurance in the general education is embedded in the Ministry's operations at input and process levels.

He said that the Department of Curriculum Development and Evaluation quality assures implementation of curriculum at classroom level through school visits to ensure that the curriculum is implemented as planned, capacitating teachers with skills to implement new elements in the curriculum and liaison with assessment to ensure alignment between curriculum blue print and assessment schemes.

Dr.Thobega stated that the Inspectorate Division in the MoESD is tasked with conducting quality checks in schools which include checking and ensuring that teaching and learning resources are available in schools, ensuring school leadership reports

on school activities as well as classroom processes, validates implementation of programs as recommended at policy level and give feedback.

He further alluded to the fact that examination results, largely tell the extent to which candidates have grasped content and that in such a case the results are a quality assurance measure.

"Assessment has an embedded quality assurance process where paper production, examination centres, marking and grading processes are checked by experts," said Dr.Thobega

According to him, "The question is whether the quality assurance processes should not cover the continuum from early childhood to doctoral level, whether the quality assurance processes guarantee quality of programs, quality of graduates hence quality of education?", he said while posing rhetorical questions to the audience.

Dr.Thobega noted that, "It is apparent that quality assurance in the education system of Botswana is dichotomous. There are quality assurance processes that talk to each other within levels of the General Education system, however; quality assurance at higher education seems not related to what happens at General Education," he said.

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BEC attends Salajwe Matsha College students' memorial service

Quality Practices...

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Alluding to Dr. Thobega's assertions Professor Mokopakgosi recommended that Higher education lecturers could be inducted in teaching and assessment skills; examination items could be vetted for validity and reliability, storage of examination materials should be under tight security and that Universities could develop grading standards so that standards would not change from year to year or from lecturer to another.

He also stated that Grading could be a collective process where other education stakeholders get involved and that Grade review process should be transparent and collective.

Concluding the presentation, the duo highlighted that the Revised National Policy on Education (RNPE) specifically stipulated a systematic monitoring of learning achievement and remediation in the education system to address issues of quality and that assessment systems around the world have crafted measures of quality learning measured through international aptitude standards, known as benchmarks.

They said that measures are generated through research process, and that some of the research projects that Botswana participates in are Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), and The Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ) which are designed to link candidates' performance on aptitude tests to a host of background factors and measure the performance against their regional and global counterparts set standards.

Professor Mokopakgosi and Dr. Thobega introduced the concept of a National Assessment Programme (NAP) which would be implemented by BEC and is used to monitor learning achievement in the same way as TIMSS, PIRLS, and SACMEQ and use national standards.

"Surveys that are designed to measure quality of learning achievement may be implemented so that quality of education measures may be known at any level. Assessment at Higher Education may be quality assured using similar process like those at general education," they said.



EAC staff presenting water for Matsha Senior Students who were hospitalised at Marina Hospital after a serious road accident.

By Charles Keikotlhae

Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) attended the memorial service in Salajwe of the 8 Matsha College students who perished in a fatal accident which took place when the truck they were travelling in from their school after writing their final BGCSE exam had a tyre bust.

The BEC team led by the then acting Executive Secretary Dr. Moreetsi Thobega were informed at the memorial service of the request by the families of the deceased that the results of their departed children should not be published in any manner but should instead be delivered to Social Workers in their respective villages to deliver them to family members.

After the memorial services the BEC team that also comprised the BEC Legal Services Manager Mr. Kabelo Lebotse and Corporate Communications staff Mr. Charles Keikotlhae and Mr. Lesego Ntuluki visited the three families of the deceased students from Salajwe and

delivered a message of condolence from the BEC Executive Secretary Professor Brian Mokopakgosi. Dr. Thobega explained to the families of the deceased that BEC as the custodian of national examinations which the students wrote before their untimely death felt the need to stand with them hence the delivery of the Executive Secretary's message.

He pointed out that like other organisations, Ministry of Education and Skills Development under which BEC falls, was coordinating efforts amongst its departments and parastatals to render assistance to the bereaved families and that the proceeds of such benevolent efforts would be delivered to the affected families after the funerals.

The memorial service was attended by amongst others His Excellency Lieutenant General Seretse Khama Ian Khama, Assistant Minister of Education and Skills Development Hon. Fedelis Molao Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament and Senior Government Officials.

Special Needs Unit - champions of inclusive education



Special Needs Unit Programme Assistants Mr Retsetswe Tlhase and Ms. Barulaganye Boy securing Special Needs examinations material prior to dispatch.

By Otsile R. Tapson

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world'. This quote by the 1993 Nobel Peace prize winner Nelson Mandela seem to resonate well with the Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) Special Needs Unit in the Directorate of Examinations Administration and Certification.

The Special Needs unit exists to facilitate access arrangements for candidates with special needs. The Unit also promotes inclusive education and assessment.

In a candid interview with *Maduo*, Special Needs Senior Programme Officer Annah Lewanika, defines inclusive education as a 'concept that ensure the design of schools, classrooms, curriculum, teaching and assessment activities to afford all students equal opportunities to learn and participate together regardless of their background, gender, race, and presence of a disability'.

Outlining the core functions of her unit, Lewanika says the unit deals with Access arrangements and special consideration. Under Access Arrangement, candidates with long term or permanent disabilities are given access to BEC qualifications to demonstrate their attainment in the best possible circumstances. She further explained that Special consideration is

granted to candidates who at the time of an examination might be having an adverse condition such as an illness or bereavement that might impact on their performance. Lewanika said there are procedures and guidelines to be followed when applying for access arrangements and further stressed that applications should reach BEC at least three months before the examination is written to allow timely processing the requests. She emphasised the importance of providing supporting documents from registered medical practitioners and other specialists to substantiate the application for access arrangements and special consideration.

Lewanika highlighted that the most common learning disability is dyslexia. Candidates with dyslexia maybe given extra time, allowed the use of a reader and or a writer (scribe) to complete their examination sessions. Candidates who cannot independently write due to challenges with fine motor skills coordination (poor dexterity) are allowed the use of a writer. The candidates are usually poor at two finger tasks such as holding a pen and writing legibly. However, access arrangements for the same disability type may differ as different candidates have varying limitations

with regard to what they can achieve. She added that they also use assistive technology devices such as recorders for oral responses. Other arrangements available for candidates with special needs are modified question papers for learning disabilities, hearing Impairment and braille users. Lewanika pointed out that candidates with low vision are given examination scripts with enlarged print. BEC also provides brailled examinations for candidates with visual impairment. 'We always require evidence of support structures from centres that candidates are familiar with and have been exposed to, and the type of access arrangements they are being provided with', stressed Lewanika, adding that this is done to ensure the candidate is not disadvantaged.

BEC also accommodates other requests such as preferred question colour paper for candidates with visual stress – a condition that causes visual distortions when reading from white paper. She further explained that there is also arrangement in place for candidates with hearing impairment. The candidates are allowed sign language interpreters. 'There are guidelines and procedures to be followed when assisting candidates with special needs; it is worth noting that any type of access arrangements should not be used to give any candidates an edge over others' stressed Lewanika. Candidates with physical disabilities are given preferential sitting or sometimes allowed separate examination rooms. Depending on the condition of their disability candidates can also be given extra time or provided with a scribe.

The Special Needs Unit also grants access arrangements for candidates with chronic medical conditions such as epilepsy, diabetes, asthma and kidney disorders to mention but a few. She said the candidates are allowed timed and supervised breaks, preferential sitting and also allowed to take their medication if prescribed to fall within their examination session.

During examinations candidates who write under difficult circumstances are given special consideration. The

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BEC in pictures



Executive Team pictured with Assistant Minister Hon. Fidelis Molao during his visit to BEC.



Education Minister Unity Dow pictured with her Private Secretary Mr. Peter Maruapula at Limkokwing University during Moabi Trust Fund raising dinner:



Corporate Communications Manager Fingile Makgalemele directing proceedings at the BHRDS fair



Veronica Tlhakole, Helgah Phometsi and Faridah Motlhanka at the Moabi Trust Fund raising dinner.



The Mayor of Gaborone, His Worship Mr. Calvin Thutlwe attending the BHRDS fair opening ceremony.



BEC staff during a general staff meeting.



Stephen Austin and Sons representatives Mr. Cockram and Mr. Nunnerley during their visit to BEC.



Students lining up to certify their Statements of Results and certificates at the BHRDS fair:



Mr. Mogakolodi Chibona giving a motivational talk to staff during the general staff meeting.



Botswana Police Legal officers signing the MOU at BEC.



Prof. Brian Mokopagosi and the Botswana Police Service Acting Commissioner Victor Brunoh Paledi sharing a light moment after the signing of the MOU.



Journalist during the media briefing for the release of examinations.



Executive Team pictured with Steven and Osman representatives during the latter's visit to BEC.



Director PDS Director Mrs. Susan Makgothi presenting a Certificate to Ms Mercy Thebe of Limkokwing University at the BHRDS award ceremony.



CCD staff Jaqueline Monei, Lesego Ntuluki and Karabo Morule pose for a picture after receiving the Platinum Sponsor Award at the BHRDS awards ceremony.



Executive Secretary Prof. Brian Mokapakgosi pictured with other dignitaries at the BHRDS fair opening ceremony.



Mrs Gaone Hirschfeldt posing a question at the general staff meeting.



BEC staff during meeting addressed by Assistant Minister of Education Hon. Fidelis Molao.



Senior HR Business Partner Mr. Nametso France directing proceedings at the general staff meeting.



Assistant Minister Hon. Fidelis Molao addressing BEC staff.

Botswana Teachers Union Research Unit on a benchmark

By Charles Keikotlhae

Botswana Teachers Union (BTU) Research Unit undertook a benchmarking exercise at Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) to learn how they can improve and restructure their research function to better serve the oldest teacher union in country.

When welcoming the BTU team, BEC Director of Research and Policy Development (RPD) Dr. Moreetsi Thobega who was accompanied by RPD Manager Ms. Chawangwa Mudongo, Senior Research Officer Ms. Kagiso Sethora and the BEC Corporate Communications team, posited that although people benchmark with you, you can also benefit from them even more.

Presenting on their mission, BTU Assistant Administration Secretary Mr Lepotokisi Keboi stated that their research unit is new hence the need to benchmark with those already established.

He pointed out that there was a policy that BTU came up with which highlighted the need to have a research unit so that as a stakeholder in education they can have an informed position on issues.

Mr. Keboi said that a few days back prior to the BEC meeting, they went to the Okavango region to collect a lot of data that is still raw as they lack the know-how to analyse and interpret the it, adding that although they have requested assistance from Botswana Educational Research Association (BERA), the latter is fully engaged with other commitments hence they are still helpless with the data.

Regarding the Administration of the Unit, the BTU Assistant Administration Secretary implored BEC to assist them with information on the Human Resources needs of a proper functioning research entity such as structure and personnel qualifications.

Mr. Keboi stated that currently when there is a national issue that they need to inform themselves on, they engage an expert; for example, an economist, when it comes to the national budget speech.

He said that the research unit should inform BTU strategic plan and that at the end of the Day they should be in a position as BTU to assist organisations like BEC with their research findings.

"We need to know how expensive research is," Mr. Keboi concluded his presentation.

Responding to Mr. Keboi and his colleague, BTU Research Officer, Ms. Keneilwe Keagakwa, Dr. Thobega explained that BEC Directorate of Research and Policy Development was initially to contribute to product development but is now informing the whole education system.

Dr. Thobega pointed out that the mandate of RPD is to conduct research and inform BEC; for example to unpack marks, and collect data to guide system policy including for the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD).

"As we generate a lot of Knowledge, we have a Resource Centre which also

collect information from outside and manage it on our behalf," Dr. Thobega said, explaining that they have a staff compliment of 18 with a Director, a Manager, Coordinators and Research Officers. He stated that time and again they engage Research Assistants if they have a project that needs more people. "Senior Research Officers should have Masters and PHD," he pointed out, and added that currently they have four PHD holders, some with statistics qualifications while others have Masters Qualifications.

Dr. Thobega said that BEC research should be Research and Development and that they have intentions to engage Teacher Unions to discuss some of the research findings that they normally share with stakeholders.

The BEC Senior Research Officer, Ms. Kagiso Sethora, explained that currently, their structure is seemingly top heavy due to a number of research projects they are undertaking which on the minimum requires someone at Masters Level and thus they often find themselves doing even menial jobs such as photocopying and telephone calls. This trend, according to Dr. Thobega, also helps as the officers become close with their research tools for better interpretation of their findings.

Dr. Thobega stated that findings should be published for the research to be effective and that collaboration and networking with other research institutions and association helps a lot.

Special Needs...

◀ From Page 11

circumstances that may warrant special consideration are; illness of candidates during examination, terminal illness of a parent or guardian, recent bereavement of candidates' immediate family member, serious road accident, serious and disruptive crisis leading to acute anxiety

about the family. Each case is considered on its own merit and must also be supported by relevant documentation.

When commenting on the challenges, Lewanika said 'a lot still need to be done at centres or school level to ensure all candidates who require our services are assisted'. She said there is a shortage of trained personnel to deal with candidates with special needs in most schools around

the country. She further decried lack of support structures at centre levels and lack of funds to train personnel at the centres as some of the challenges her Unit is currently faced with. She however remained hopeful that the challenges will be resolved as they continue lobbying through various channels to ensure all candidates get equal access to BEC services.

The BEC Resource Centre Coordinator, Ms. Gaone Pelotona explained that they collect, organise and disseminate information and keep research reports as reference resources for BEC employees.

She disclosed that their Resource Centre is open to members of the public but that only BEC employees are allowed to borrow books, adding that, during examinations time many students visit the BEC Resource Centre to read with many of them interested in the past examinations papers.

Ms. Pelotona stated that they network with other libraries such as that of the University of Botswana as well as associations like Botswana Library Consortium so that, amongst others, they can afford to jointly subscribe to certain expensive Journals.

For her part, Manager RDP, Ms. Chawangwa Mudongo stated that they generate information to support other BEC Directorates and also participate in international studies like the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS); 2003, 2007 and 2011 studies and Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS).

She also said that they carry out comparability of standards with Cambridge and another one with Namibia. Ms. Mudongo pointed out that some of the challenges they encounter are mismatch of expectations and insufficient funding.

Ms. Fingile Makgalemele, BEC Corporate Communications Manager, encouraged the BTU team to always come up with annual research plans indicating what will be done and when so as to guide their Management and assists in securing research funding.

She also suggested that customer satisfaction surveys are crucial as BTU management can be better informed of the needs of their stakeholders and will value the input of their Research Unit.

BEC hosts the media



Executive Secretary Prof. Brian Mokopakgosi pictured with Corporate Communications Manager Ms. Fingile Makgalemele during the media briefing.

By Lesego Ntuluki

In a bid to strengthen stakeholder engagement as enshrined in its Communications Strategy BEC holds Press Briefings on a regular basis.

This media engagement platform is meant not only to strengthen the good relationship that the council enjoys with the media but also to reach out to the public, with the media playing the role of a 'messenger' as they have a broad footprint country wide. In 2014 the BEC Executive Management resolved to interact more with the media to help take information to the public and Press briefings were identified as a good platform to have a one on one with the media.

It has since become custom that at the end of every Examination Series in November the BEC Executive Management addresses the members of the media to give them a post mortem of the Examination Series. In February when the last of the three levels results are released there is also a press briefing mainly because BGCSE as the highest level of basic education has a lot of national interest and also to launch a new examination series. The ever much anticipated results release date for all the three examination levels that BEC conducts are shared with the

media during this press briefing. Sharing tentative dates of results release has seen a significant drop in numbers of enquiries of when the results will be released as the media reports on them.

The BEC Executive Secretary Prof. Brian Mokopakgosi has thanked the media for their support and coverage of BEC as they are drivers of the message to the different stake holders. "We are very grateful for your continuous support and extensive reporting on the council mandate," he applauded. The Executive Secretary's acknowledgement is endorsed by his Lieutenant; Corporate Communications Manager Ms. Fingile Makgalemele who believes that the media are a key stakeholder in BEC achieving its mandate as they do not only reach but also influence the masses. "Media engagement is not a 'by the way' exercise it is very important in helping us do what we are tasked with," she said with emphasis.

During the 2015/16 Examination Series the BEC held a total of three (3) press briefings, one on the 30th of November 2015 to report on how the exams went. It was then followed by the PSLE results release briefing on the 11th of December 2015 and lastly when BGCSE results were released on the 22nd of February 2016.

BEC takes the services to the BHRDS fair



Corporate Communications Division staff with Certification Division helping students with certification of results statements and certificate



Senior Corporate Communication Officer Mr. Charles Keikotheae attending to students at the fair.

By Jacqueline Monei

Thousands of prospective students thronged the BEC stall during the recently held Botswana Human Resource Development Skills Fair and Career Guidance Clinics (BHRDS) of 2016 at Ditshupo Hall in Gaborone to certify their 2015 statement of results and certificates.

Corporate Communications and Certification Divisions simplified the lives of the students that attended the fair in search for study and career path guidance by bringing the services under one roof.

Every year during the BHRDS fair students flock the BEC premises to certify their certificate and statements of results, but this year BEC made the students' lives easy by bringing certifying service to the 2016 BHRDS fair.

One of the students said that she is glad now that she can certify her certificate at Ditshupo Hall and she will just go ahead and search for a tertiary school unlike before where they had to go and queue at BEC offices and also come back to Ditshupo hall and find yet another queue.

Not only did BEC take the certifying services to the BHRDS fair, the Corporate Communalisations personnel were also assisting students who wanted to know more about the BEC services such as registration for private candidates, external examinations, replacing lost or damaged certificates, online registration e.t.c.

The interests of the students were focused more on the registration process and certification as many

of the students were looking to improve their results in order to enhance chances of being accepted into tertiary institutions. Flyers with information and registration fees, venues and dates were handed to students to disseminate to their parents and siblings who did not attend the fair. The fair presented a great opportunity for BEC to sell itself to the public and stakeholders.

BEC also sponsored the 2016 BHRDS fair and was recognised at the 7th BHRDS fair awards as a development partner and a sponsor of the 2016 BHRDS fair. By virtue of being HRDC sister organization, BEC has, for the past six years supported this initiative by being an active participant in the fair.



Product Development and Standards Director Mrs Susan Makgothi presenting a certificate to New Era College representative.



Corporate Communication Staff flanked by their counterparts from MoESD Public Relations Division after receiving the Platinum Sponsor Award.



Assistant Corporate Communications Officer Pauline Mogotsi assisting a student at the BEC's stall.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Botswana Examinations Council would like to invite all Candidates who wrote the Cambridge International Examinations with the Botswana Examinations Council in the following years to come and collect their Certificates from **May 01st 2016 to July 30th 2016**;

EXAMINATION SERIES	YEAR
May-June	2010
October- November	2010
May-June	2011
October- November	2011
May-June	2012
October- November	2012
May-June	2013
October- November	2013
May-June	2014
October- November	2014
May-June	2015
October- November	2015

All candidates are advised that any certificate not collected by **30th July, 2016** will be sent back to Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) for archiving and the candidate will then have to request for their respective certificate directly from CIE and bear all the costs of postage involved.

For more information please contact the following numbers:
3650913/3650909 And 3650837



Advancing learning, certifying your future



Dr. Pelotshweu Moepeng

Nation”, the survey showed that there are a number of challenges relating to; missing children who are not attending school, high drop-outs and repeat rates as well as lack of pre-school education.

The survey findings which were presented by Dr. Pelotshweu Moepeng, Vision 2016 Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, also showed that the education sector is dependent upon partnership and mutual understanding and cooperation between all stakeholders including teachers who are the major stakeholders.

The survey shows that overall, 11.7% of the respondents had no education with 25.8% staying at the lands and 16.9% at cattle posts. Some of the reasons highlighted why children cannot access schools are the engagement in household/family activities, inability to afford rent/housing, religion/culture and that nobody stays with them.

With some stakeholders expressing dissatisfaction with some of the findings and pointing out some gaps, Dr. Moepeng stated that there are other surveys going on and that a comprehensive report on Vision 2016 will be released at a later date.

Dr. Moepeng also promised that the Household Survey II of 2015 findings will be availed to the public.

Vison 2016 disseminates Household Survey II of 2015 findings

By Charles Keikotlhae

The Vison 2016 Council has disseminated the Vision’s Household Survey II of 2015 findings to stakeholders in Gaborone.

Under the pillar of “An Educated and Informed Nation”, the survey showed that more citizens have access to tertiary education in 2015 compared to 20 years ago and that there has been progress in improving quality as reflected in the number of qualified teachers employed, introduction of technology in schools and a reduction in class size i.e. teacher pupil ratio which has substantially reduced in public schools.

On opportunities, still under the pillar of “An Educated and Informed

BEC still surging towards certification

By Karabo Morule

The Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) is continuing its bid to implement ISO 9001:2008 across the whole organisation as an initiative towards organisational excellence. However some of the challenges that have consistently been experienced by the organisation include situations where it takes a long time before employees who have little knowledge about QMS could fully appreciate it.

BEC has not yet achieved certification status and this has always meant that both internal and external customers cannot adequately benefit from a service intended for them.

Research suggests that ISO 9000 certified organisations could offer better customer service and product quality. Similar research states that quality starts with marketing. Thus, it is the responsibility of the marketing function of an organisation to take the lead in establishing the true requirements for their products or services. As a result, marketing has to establish customer requirements by reviewing the market needs, particularly in terms of unclear, unstated or preconceived ideas held by customers.

With the above understanding, when BEC started preparing for the implementation of ISO 9001:2008, it did not put adequate emphasis on marketing. Although there was provision for marketing, most of the activities with respect to customers were done by the technical personnel of the organisation. In addition to that, the marketing function was taking advantage of public events such as international trade fairs. In realising that the marketing and communication functions were not in line with the industry's best practice, BEC undertook a restructuring exercise which saw the creation of the Corporate Communications Division headed by a Manager.

This has resulted in improvement of BECs' visibility and awareness by the general public. Corporate Communication Strategy has been put in place and the activities of the organisation are much more coordinated than they were before.

Considering the above, it would appear the BEC is on the verge of foundational principles of Total Quality Management. It would only be prudent to aim for it, but first it would have to effectively deal with the immediate challenges of implementing ISO 9001.

BEC joins the nation in the celebration of the Golden Jubilee



BEC's representative in the BOT50 Secretariat Ms Karabo Morule

By Otsile Rush Tapson

Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) has jumped onto the band wagon as Botswana celebrates its 50th anniversary. The Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD), under which BEC falls has lined up activities geared towards the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

BEC is participating in the Float Procession Sub Committee under the BOT 50 Secretariat and is represented by Corporate Communication Officer Karabo Morule. Morule will be coordinating all BEC's activities in the build up to the September 30 celebration in conjunction with other MoESD sister organisations. The purpose of the celebrations is to reflect on Botswana's achievements since the attainment of Independence in 1966 and further enhance patriotism, national identity, unity and pride.

The countdown to September 30th 2016 is a nationwide phenomenon that calls for self-introspection as a nation. Further, there is need to reflect on Botswana's achievements in the implementation of the Vision 2016 pillars. Therefore, all stakeholders need to take stock of their achievements, challenges and come up with interventions.

Morule told Maduo that BEC will participate under the education sector, where the aim of the procession is intended to showcase the strides that have been achieved in the education sector since the attainment of the independence in 1966. The major independence celebrations will be held in Gaborone and Francistown and BEC will be represented in both events. She added that staff members in government departments have been encouraged to embrace the Golden Jubilee by wearing Botswana colours on Fridays as from the 1st October 2015 to 30th September 2016.

ICT Directorate sensitizes Staff on the Dangers of Computer Viruses



ICT Operations Manager Mr. Ration Balositse

By Keoitse Pauline Mogotsi

Computers have changed our lives in so many ways, including the way we communicate as a society. People can now talk to one another in real time through the use of social networking sites such as Facebook, My Space, and Twitter.

As with every invention there is also a downside. The advancement in technology has led to some unscrupulous people taking advantage of computers by stealing people's personal details and inventing viruses that disrupt the operations of a computer. Since computers use Internet and networks to process the information, this has opened avenues for abuse and unethical use. In light of these dangers Botswana Examinations Council's Information and Communications Technology Division issued a cautionary and advice on computer viruses.

Recently presenting about computer viruses during BEC Change Friday, the ICT Manager Mr. Ratio Balositse said computer viruses are small but malicious software programs that are designed to spread from computer to computer interfering with the operations of the computer. He said they don't float around in the air like some human viruses instead like any other computer program; a human being must create them. They are crafted with the sole intention of stealing data or crippling a system. He said viruses are like bombs inside a computer, and the more computers get infected, the more the damage. He stated that Computer viruses are often spread by e-mail attachments, and that is why it is essential that one should never open e-mail attachments unless they know

whom it originates from. He further said viruses can also be spread through infected web pages, downloading a file from a web-page and loading an infected file into your computer from some kind of storage devices such as flash disks, CD/DVD. He cautioned that it is also possible to pick a virus through peer to peer file sharing networks and that viruses can be disguised as attachments of funny images, greeting cards, or audio and video files.

Although the focal aim of the presentation was to caution the staff Mr. Balositse outlined preventive measures on computer viruses. He said viruses can be prevented by taking sensible precautions which includes using antivirus software to scan the system daily and weekly, not opening attachments from people that you do not know or attachments which looks suspicious. He encouraged the staff who attended to avoid using external storage devices in computers. "We have firewall protection in our organisation but we need to take care of what we put into our computers. This firewall helps to filter what gets into our system", said Balositse. He advised BEC employees to prevent automatic downloads of computer programs, should not allow people to load applications on their system, avoid using counterfeit software and should backup their data regularly so that one can recover it in the event of a disaster.

To ensure attendees understood this complex subject of viruses, the ICT Directorate played a recorded short drama on the dangers of computer viruses and how they can cripple an organisation.

An educated and informed nation pillar a success



Policy Development Director, Dr Moreetsi Thobega

By Jacqueline Monei

The Botswana Examinations Council's, Research and Policy Development Director, Dr Moreetsi Thobega has declared the Vision 2016 Pillar of an Educated and Informed Nation a success during the Evaluative Pillar National Stakeholder Conference held on the 24th – 25th February 2016 in Francistown.

Vision 2016 is a national project aligned to the National Development Plans (NDPs) to improve the lives of the citizens of the country. Vision 2016 was established in 1996 following nationwide consultations led by a Presidential Task Group. The need for the creation of a national vision was precipitated by the need for Botswana to intentionally define and manage its path to 'Prosperity for All', as well as how it adjusts to the rapidly changing global economy and social order.

Seven key pillars were developed to achieve this; the vision reflects the aspirations of Botswana about their longterm future and is a result of extensive consultations with a wide spectrum of individuals and institutions in the country.

The year 2016 is the year that Botswana by September 30 will be an independent state for 50 years.

Speaking at the conference Dr Thobega said First Education Policy (1977) targeted social harmony – democracy, development, self-reliance and national unity and in 1994 drift in socio economic situation led to the Revised National Policy on Education (RNPE). The RNPE provided a comprehensive strategy for education and training that would serve the human resource development needs of Botswana into the 21st century.

He explained that the RNPE introduced the ten year basic education which promoted universal access to primary and junior secondary schools and Vision 2016 was conceptualized as a strategy that would help Botswana achieve her future aspiration and dreams. He indicated that the Educated and Informed Nation pillar was well aligned to guide operationalisation of RNPE. The Vision also promoted universal and equitable access to learning by children and young adults.

The following key recommendations of the RNPE have been implemented:

- Re-introduction of the three years Junior Certificate Programme.
 - Achievement of universal access to ten years basic education.
 - Review of the basic education curriculum and development of core instructional support material.
 - Introduction of the three year Diploma in Primary Education Programme and phasing out of the former two-year Primary Teachers Certificate (PTC) in all the primary colleges of education.
 - Localisation of the senior secondary examinations through the introduction of the Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE).
 - Diversification of the Vocational Education and Training curriculum through introduction of competency-based and modular programmes like the Botswana Technical Education Programme (BTEP), as well as increasing access to this level of the education system through expansion of technical colleges.
 - Increased access to senior secondary education beyond 50%.
 - Establishment of the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) to coordinate the development of tertiary education.
 - Establishment of the Botswana Examinations Council to manage and coordinate the conduct of all national examinations/assessment programmes.
 - Establishment of the Botswana College of Distance and Open Learning (BOCODOL).
 - Establishment of Programmes for Out of School Education and Training.
 - The Ministry of Education has also attempted to raise a lot in terms of awareness on HIV/AIDS through infusion of HIV/AIDS matters into the school curricula.
- Dr Thobega shared that, there are 812 public and private primary schools, 207 public junior secondary schools, 32 senior secondary schools, 44 unified private secondary schools and several brigades and vocational training colleges around the country to ensure access to education..

'Mma Jacob' bids BEC farewell



By Karabo Morule

Ms. Bakobi Babili Jacob, a former teacher who started with the then Examinations, Research and Testing Division (ERTD), Ministry of Education and Skills Development,

in the year 2000 as a Religious Education Subject Officer has been with BEC since its inception.

Ms. Jacob was one of those who migrated to BEC from ERTD excited and ready to perform. At BEC she was promoted to the same position of Senior Product Development Officer. She told the Bulletin that at BEC she had the opportunity to develop and grow daily in her career.

In her line of work, Ms. Jacob enjoyed the fact that the results of her efforts could be immediately evident, as it is with question papers.

She recalls with sadness a time at ERTD when she was overlooked for a promotion that was due to her for reasons she did not agree with. She fought tooth and nail to rectify the situation but to no avail. However, her prayers were answered a year after moving to BEC when she was promoted.

"Mma Jacob" as many call her has many fond memories of BEC but those that stood out were travels to Cambridge, Cape Town and Singapore where she attended some courses that she believes gave her skills she still taps into even today.

Being a member of the BEC ISO Implementation Team also helped her to attain a skill that she is very proud of through Botswana Bureau of Standards as she is now a proud Lead Auditor for the ISO 9001-2008 standard.

"Mma Jacob" bid her final farewell to BEC on the 30th November 2015, feeling sad but looking forward to future prospects, still in the education sector. To her colleagues that she has left behind, she wishes them only the best and encourages them to persevere and grow professionally. "Being at BEC is a privilege to serve your country so work hard at all times", she said.

Masire appointed Internal Auditor

By Otsile R. Tapson



The Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Keramile Masire to position of Internal Audit.

Masire holds a BCom Ac, ACCA, ACPA, and is a chartered certified accountant who has years of experience in audit, finance and tax, internal controls, governance, risk management and strategy attained through her employ in reputable organisations. She started her career path with KPMG Botswana, a big four firm of External Auditors recognised globally, during a time which she gained wealth of experience in finance and audit having audited over 15 organisations in different sectors including Education.

After serving four years at KPMG, she was appointed by Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) as Senior Internal Auditor, a position she held for over three years. This position presented Mrs. Masire with

new challenges that equipped her with supervision and leadership skills and was appointed Chairperson of the staff contributory pension fund.

At BDC, her key roles included strategy formulation and internal audit. The audit role entailed auditing the mother company and ten of its subsidiaries. Masire later joined Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) as Internal Audit Manager where she worked for a period of three years before joining BEC in October 2015.

Mrs Masire successfully assisted management during her tenure at WUC in her advisory role in risk management and governance which enabled the organisation to move a step ahead in these area. She was also part of the strategic team during the 2015/18 strategic formulation at WUC in her capacity as Internal Audit Manager. Over the years she gained job specific skills and attributes which will be valuable to the BEC.

Over 14 000 come for certification services



Multitudes of students lining up to collect their certificates following an announcement of the upskilling programme by MoESD named target 20 000.

By Lesego Ntuluki

Botswana Examinations Council's Certification Division got a shot in the arm following the announcement of Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) Upskilling an Upscaling programme as many thronged BEC premises for certification services including collection of their long overdue certificates.

The MoESD's initiative aimed at absorbing unemployed youth into different institutions to a large extent was a catalyst in the 3388 increase in number for certification services in 2015 compared to 2014. Certification Supervisor Ms. Tapologo Ditshego said the month of November registered the highest number of certification services rendered, at 2306. This can perhaps be attributed to the Upskilling and Upscaling initiative commenced in November 2015.

Though grateful that people came in numbers to collect their certificates; to the relief of storage space, Ditshego is still concerned that people only come for their certificates when there is a pressing need to. "It is always good to have people come in large numbers to collect their certificates, but it is worrisome that they only see the need when there is an opportunity," she said.

Ditshego went on to highlight that when people come in large numbers and at the same time there is an urgency to service them it poses a problem as they are short staffed and compensating with working overtime can be just a drop in the sea.

Something positive to note is the significant decrease of people who came to replacement of lost or damaged certificates. In 2014 the replaced certificates constituted 13.5%

of the total certification services offered and in 2015 the number declined by a significant 7.7% to 5.8%.

Ditshego urge those that have never collected their certificates from their respective schools or need to replace them to come forth and not wait for 'rush hour'.

The Upskilling and Upscaling initiative that targeted 20 000 unemployed youth who never been to tertiary or institution of higher learning. They will be absorbed in batches of 5 000 per financial year. "We are expecting large numbers again towards the end of the year when the programme opens for the next financial year and we are preparing for that," Ditshego highlighted.

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR PAYMENT USING ORANGE MONEY

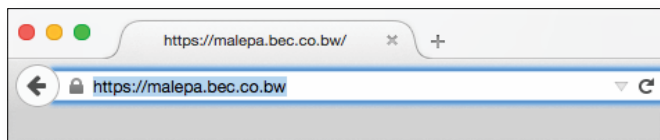
ONLINE PAYMENT OF BGCSE EXAMINATION FEES USING ORANGE MONEY (PRIVATE CANDIDATES)

Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) would like to inform its stakeholders and the public that the BGCSE registration and payment for private candidates can be done online with the aid of Orange Money.

To be able to register and pay online, private candidates will require Internet access, an Orange Money Account and sufficient Orange network coverage.

Below are the steps to follow to complete the registration form using the MALEPA system before proceeding with payment using Orange Money.

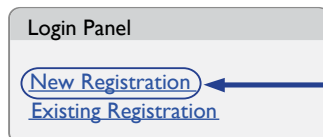
Step 1



Open the web browser (Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome) and type the URL <https://malepa.bec.co.bw> to open the Malepa webpage.

Step 3

The login panel will appear as shown below.



Click on New Registration
to Access the Registration Form

Step 5

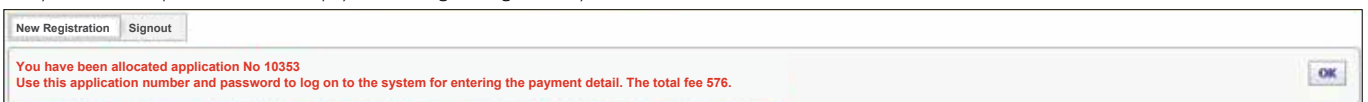
Continue Completing the Online Registration by filling your details on the **Tab A to J** as indicated by arrows below.



Please ensure that you have completed all the relevant fields before submitting your registration. Check for errors and verify all the information entered.

Step 6

Upon submitting your registration you will receive a notification similar to the one below. This means you have successfully submitted your registration and you can now proceed to make payment using Orange Money.



Click on **OK** and A provisional statement of entry pops out showing all the data you entered. It also shows the application number and amount to pay.


The application number and password must be kept in a safe place. You might need it to make corrections on your first registration. Please note that this facility is only available for a limited period. **Registration runs from 04th April 2016 to 25th May 2016.**

The provisional statement of entry CANNOT be used for the examination. After making payment you will be sent a **Final Statement of Entry** to be used for your final examinations. It will show the centre number, candidate number, candidate's details, syllabi registered for and the timetable.

For more information and technical Assistance please contact the
BEC Malepa Support Office
on 3650839/860

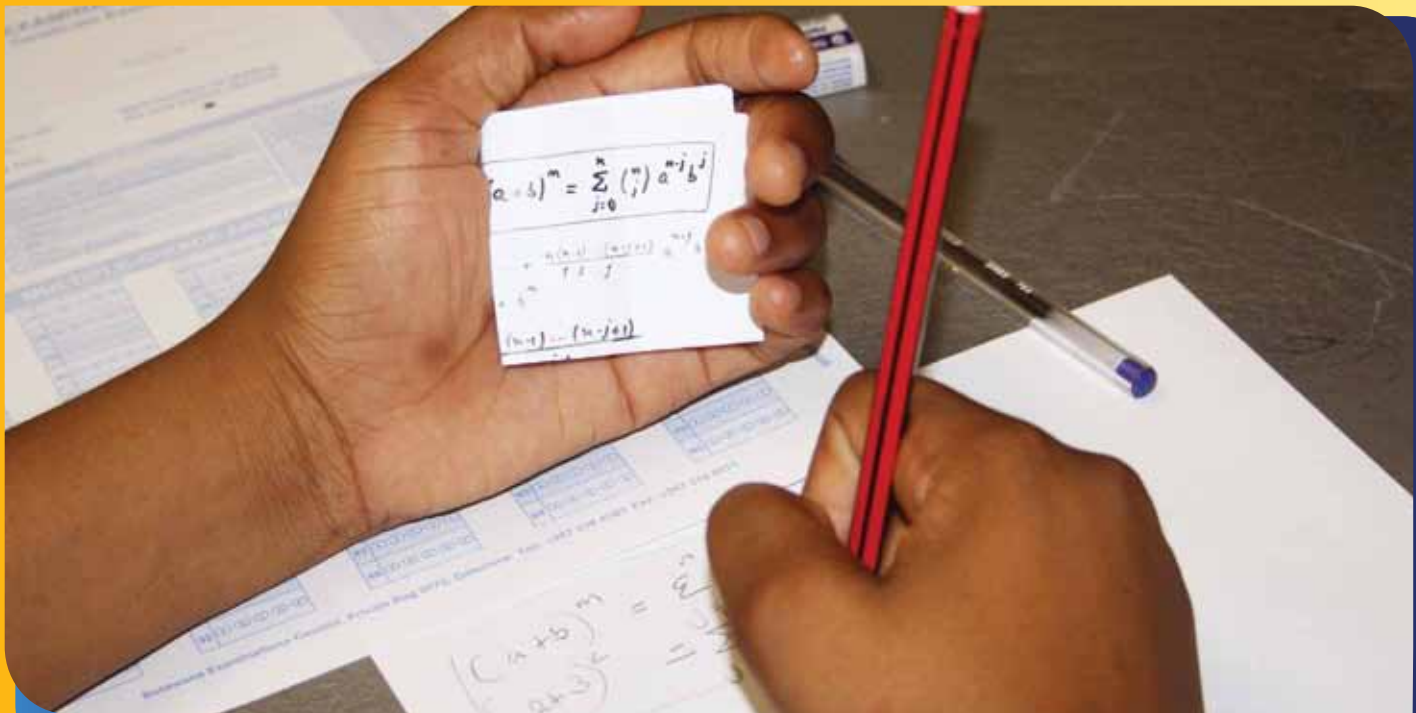
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Stop Examinations Malpractice



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.



**BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL**

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