

BEC uses BNEPS to go ahead in e-government strategy

By Lesang Puddefoot



Dr Serara Moahi
BEC Executive Secretary

Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) has this year embarked on the implementation of the Botswana National Examinations Processing System (BNEPS) especially the Malepa Application which is a web based application that will be used for the processing of national Examinations.

BNEPS came as a response by BEC to the Government's National e-government

strategy 2011-2016 which aims at timely and accessible service to citizens through the utilisation of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) tools especially the internet which resulted in the creation of the Government portal.

Consequently, BEC as part of government structures has forged ahead in a bid to employ innovative ICT practices to deliver better services to its customers. Such efforts are also premised upon the Council's mission of providing effective and responsive quality centred assessment and examination system, which will enable those who have passed through the BEC Examinations to be globally competitive.

It is envisaged that the deployment of the BNEPS programme especially the Malepa application will lead to more efficient and timely service delivery to customers and reduce turnaround times and operational costs.

History in the Making

For the first time in History, BEC will process all the three levels of examinations; Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE), Junior

Certificate Examination (JCE) and Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) through the web based application with another milestone being that the processing of BGCSE is now localised after years of processing this examination with Cambridge International Examination (CIE); BEC has only been capturing BGCSE entry details and forwarding them to CIE for processing.

The Malepa application will be used for capturing candidates registration details, examining personnel details, as well as payment details for various activities carried out on behalf of BEC.

Registration of Candidates

The Malepa Applications allows for two types of capturing Registration details for candidates;

Use of Optical Mark Reader forms (OMR forms): The candidates details are captured by shading in lozenges in the OMR form which is then scanner-read and the data fed into the processing system. Online capture of entry Details: This involves direct, real time entry of details into the system **To page 6**

Editor



Charles Keikotlhae
BEC Public Relations Officer

Finally, the Examinations time has arrived and everyone is busy ensuring that everything runs smoothly. As Examinations are like a wheel, there is no rest; immediately you finish with a series the other one starts, hence preparations have been ongoing for the current series including the training of examinations personnel.

As a history in the making, the 2012 national examinations are run through the Botswana National Examinations System (BNEPS) with

the aim of improving on the service that is rendered to customers.

The system has also enabled the Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) to localise the processing of the Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) for the first time as in the past, they have been processed with Cambridge International Examinations in the United Kingdom; benefits are galore!!!

The 30th Association for Educational Assessment in Africa Conference that was held at Gaborone International Convention Centre under the banner of BEC was a huge success and BEC could only be used as a benchmark for future meetings of the association as the Conference was a resounding success by all standards as compared to previous AEAA Conferences and the feedback received. Bravo BEC!!! Bravo!!! All the accolades should go to the BEC staff and other stakeholders for having worked tirelessly and sometimes with little sleep to make sure the conference was of the international standards. Congratulations.

Let me take this time to encourage our candidates to study hard and avoid the cancer that is examinations malpractice. I wish them the best during this examination series. May the Good Lord Bless you.

Please enjoy our latest Maduo issue and always feel free to give us feedback for continuous improvement.

Vision

To be a provider of accessible and globally competitive qualifications

Mission

To provide effective and responsive quality centred assessment and examination system

Core Value

- Excellence
- Achieving balanced results
- Value-adding for customers
- Leadership
- Managing by Process
- Building partnerships
- Sustainability
- Nurturing creativity & innovation

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Education Critical Factor for African Economies-Rakhudu

By Charles Keikotlhae



Honourable Keletso Rakhudu

Former Assistant Minister of Education and Skills Development Honourable Keletso Rakhudu has pointed out that Education is a critical factor to the success and sustainability of African Economies and that, while education is a primary tool for economic enhancement, quality in education is even more important.

Officially opening the 30th Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) Annual Conference in Gaborone, GICC, on Monday, 6th August 2012, Honourable Rakhudu noted that naturally, the theme of the conference, Reforms in Educational Assessment for Regional Development underscores the importance of the role played by assessment in education.

He said that while reforms have always played an important role, there has been anxiety due to the fact that assessment should be fair and empowering for both the teacher and the student, and indeed for the entire educational system.

Assistant Minister Rakhudu expressed disappointment that in many instances assessment has been found wanting, ...and in some cases, more punitive than developmental. It is therefore timely that this conference should be seized with issues of qualitative empowering reforms," said Honourable Rakhudu, pointing out that assessment in education is broad as it covers a wide spectrum.

Honourable Rakhudu pointed out that quality education will catapult Africa into a path of economic growth and sustainability leading to effective competitiveness: Africa is indeed faced with many challenges, and it is imperative that we invest in improving our competitiveness in order to remain relevant players in the global economy, he said.

The Assistant Minister stated that Botswana like other countries has crafted a long term Vision with an educated and informed nation one of its key pillars, The goal is much broader than just a provision of skilled human resources, he said, adding that through various education interventions, issues that relate to addressing unemployment, poverty, as well as social cohesion are also to be closely monitored.

He stated that the goal is also to inculcate work ethics to increase national productivity and subsequently grow the economy hence the introduction of National Human Resources Development Strategy and several education initiatives such as the National Credit and Qualifications Framework. "The Framework is built on learning outcomes and on acquired skills and competencies.

The implementation of this strategic framework will improve articulation in between qualifications," said Rakhudu, indicating that most importantly, the framework will improve comparability between regional qualifications thus enhancing partnerships and collaboration within Africa.

Hon. Rakhudu said that assessment lies in the heart of educational transformation as envisaged in the reforms like the stated National Credit and Qualifications Framework.

He said that assessment also facilitate dialogue among educators as well as enhancing professional skills and assist schools and learning institutions to strengthen learning across the curriculum, however, assessment must be applied with care, skill and caution to ensure that all benefit from its intended good," Honourable Rakhudu said.

The former Assistant Minister of Education and Skills Development appealed to the conference participants to find convergence and to identify a strategic path to ensure that reforms in assessment continue to be a norm for sustainable growth and success.

Assessment has Assumed Heightened Global Importance

By Charles Keikotlhae



Professor Richard Tabulawa

The University of Botswana (UB) Professor Richard Tabulawa says that assessment as a result of shifts in the nature of the workplace, has assumed heightened importance in the globally integrated world.

Giving a keynote address during the just ended 30th Annual Conference of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) at Gaborone International Convention Centre on the 6th of August 2012, Professor Tabulawa stated that whereas in the past assessment came as an afterthought in curriculum development today it is the key driver of the process of developing the curriculum.

I have always maintained that if there are people who have the potential to redirect education it is you assessment experts, Professor Tabulawa pointed out to the conference delegates.

He stated that current educational reforms elevate generic/soft skills such as interpersonal skills, versatility, problem solving skills, analytical and critical skills, teamwork spirit, strategic thinking etc and that in the knowing that educational setup of yesteryear these skills (which are also termed employability skills) cultivation was left to the hidden curriculum .

The overt curriculum had no time for these. The transformation to the knowing how, however, turns this arrangement on its head, since it makes the erstwhile hidden curriculum the overt curriculum. This means that these skills now must be overtly assessed .

Professor Tabulawa pointed out that the above mentioned skills are now too important to be left to chance as the current job market reveal that soft skills are in high demand, adding that the challenge, therefore, is how to assess these skills given their prominence in the labour markets.

But, before they can be assessed they have to be taught and learnt. So, pedagogues also face the challenge of how to best teach these skills. The issue of aligning assessment with teaching and learning cannot be wished away, professor Tabulawa said.

He stated that what was 'quality education' during the Industrial Era is no longer quality education in the Post-Industrial Era as an education that does not deliberately promote employability skills can hardly be said to be quality education today **To page 6**



Dr Moahi
after receiving the AEAA President Mantle

Dr. Moahi Appointed AEAA President

The Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) Executive Secretary, Dr. Serara Moahi has been appointed the new President of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) during the Association's 30th Annual Conference held at Gaborone International Convention Centre which came to an end on the 10th of August 2012.

BEC Continues Reaching Out to Stakeholders

Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) Public Relations (PR) Office continues to educate stakeholders and the general public about the Council's mandate.

The PR office recently participated in two career fairs hosted by Rainbow English Medium School and Mogoditshane Senior Secondary School.

Across the two career fairs, the BEC PR officers emphasised the critical role that the Council plays in the realisation of the national goals such as the Vision 2016 pillar of an educated and informed nation and explained issues such as the private candidates registration for those students who could not do well in their first attempt during national examinations.



Mr Kaboyamodimo Mokoti
Addressing Mogoditshane SSS students

Other issues addressed included examinations malpractice and lost or damaged certificates as well as the annual excellence awards.

Most of the students addressed were form fives and the intention of the fairs was to provide visionary career choices to the soon to be adults students.

BEC participation in the two fairs proved successful judging by the number of students who flocked its stall to get in-depth information that could assist them in the selection of their career paths.

At Rainbow, some of the participating institutions and organisations came from as far as Russia, South Africa and Ireland.



Ms Keletso Gotcha
was also at hand to explain some of BEC Services

Dr. Moahi took over the reins of the AEAA Presidency from the Kenyan National Examinations Council Executive Officer Mr. Paul Wasanga who has been at the helm of AEAA since 2011.

Before she ascended to the AEAA Presidency, Dr. Moahi was the Association's Vice President during the 29th conference held in Nairobi, Kenya from the 1st to the 5th August 2011. The new AEAA Vice President is the National Examinations Council of Tanzania Executive Secretary Dr. Joyce Ndalichako.

The AEAA exists among others to; promote co-operation amongst examining and assessment bodies in Africa; encourage relevant examining and assessment activities among members; sponsor

international participation in the field of educational testing and examining; commission research projects; address and share experience on issues of evaluation and assessment as well as to improve assessment, testing and examining within the individual member countries.

Dr. Serara Moahi also sits in the Executive Committee of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement commonly referred to as IEA which is based in Amsterdam,

The appointment of Dr. Moahl to the AEAA Presidency stands to benefit the nation a lot in the field of Assessment and Examinations.

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Professor Tabulawa said that one aspect of current educational reforms is the increasing emphasis on education as a democratization project and as an institution to deliver an egalitarian society, as such issues of equity, access and fairness are central in today's educational reforms.

At the micro level of assessment it is imperative to have an assessment regime that is fair to all students irrespective of background. No wonder the concept of Inclusive Education is high on the agenda of national education policies .

In our quest for access and equal opportunity for all, we have tended to suppress meritorious performance. There might, therefore, be a sense in which mixed ability teaching is itself undemocratic. This poses a challenge for assessment: how do we balance access and equity on one hand

with merit on the other? asked Professor Tabulawa.

He said that assessment reforms do not come cheap as they are intensive and expensive demanding all forms of resources-financial, human etc concluding that given the current global economic situation it may not be possible for many countries, developing ones in particular, to avail the resources needed to undertake assessment reforms of the kind that the conference discussed.

Some of the topics included the following:

- The imperatives of trans-national approach to reforming educational assessment for African regional development
- The Analysis of Competence Based Approach in Teaching and Learning and Assessment of Science Subjects for

Performance Improvement in Tanzania Secondary Schools

- Affective Assessment: Issues and Implications
- The Usefulness of Item Response Theory Models in Educational and Psychological Measurement
- Analysis of the multiple choice questions in selected subjects in the 2011 Uganda certificate of education examinations using the item response theory
- Fairness in Assessing Students in Botswana BGCSE Teaching Syllabus vs. Assessment Syllabus
- Reform of examinations conduct: Initiative for improving reliability and validity of examinations
- An investigation of the speeded nature of Primary School Leaving Examination Composition and Letter Writing Component

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where the clients are given limited access to the system for what they require to do and the details are directly captured into the system.

For the 2012 examination series the PSLE and JCE examination levels used the OMR technology as most of these examination centres did not have connectivity to the Internet. This allows for candidates details to be captured on specialized forms which are then fed into special scanners which are able to read the data on the form and then uploaded onto the examination processing system.

However, the BGCSE level used the online method of capturing data as all of the examination centres at this level reported having Internet connectivity albeit the ineffectiveness of the bandwidths.

Private Candidates Registration

All private candidates details had to be captured in a specially designed form termed a grey form and then keyed into the system at BEC at both Gaborone region and Francistown region. Challenges that were faced using the Malepa application for registration of candidates

The online registration faced challenges with respect to connectivity of examination centres to the internet as it was found that even though all the BGCSE centres had connectivity to the Internet, the bandwidth that the centres operated on could not keep up with the bandwidth

used by BEC and as such some centres could not access the system completely or the system kept timing out.

Resolution for the above:

With the help of some stakeholders like the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, some Centres ended up using facilities at various Regional Education offices across the country to register their candidates online. Other centres had to come to use the facility at BEC. Further, other centres used some primary schools in their locations that had superior internet connectivity.

Table 1.1 shows the number of centres that registered at different locations for the 2012 series.

Table 1.1: 2012 Registration points for the BGCSE centres.

Registration Venue	BEC Centres	Government Centres	Private Centres
Centre Facilities	0	14	22
BEC Facilities	19	12	9
REO	0	4	0
Primary School	0	1	0
Unaccounted	0	0	0
Total	19	31	31

Table 1.1 above indicates that out of the 33 government Senior

BEC at SAATCA 15th International Auditor Conference

By Karabo Morule



BEC ISO Implementation Team

Botswana Examinations council (BEC) through the ISO Implementation Team (IIT) attended the 2012 Southern African Auditor & Training Certification Authority (SAATCA) conference in Pretoria, South Africa from 12-14 September 2012.

SAATCA is an independent third party auditor certification body that registers auditors for management systems and product and process, worldwide, with focus in the Southern African Development Community. The certification of persons gives employers the competitive advantage of hiring auditors that have been assessed against specific job requirements and have been found competent.

With this year's theme as "Excellence through Auditing" the conference engaged participants through discussions on various management systems and afforded them generous networking opportunities. With excellence being the core value of BEC, the IIT has one foot in the right direction.

Benefits of being a SAATCA member include increased productivity, lower personnel turnover, improved work methods and risk management.

secondary schools, only 14 were able to successfully register their candidates at their own facility while 12 used the BEC facility with 4 relying on the Regional Education Office facilities and 1 centre using a primary school that had superior Internet connectivity.

Recruitment of Examining Personnel

Since the Malepa application is an integrated application it also has the capacity to capture the details of the examining personnel, such that each examining personnel is linked to an activity that they are engaged in and are paid based on the activity as defined by the user department. For instance, an examiner would be linked to the marks of the candidates they have marked for and any discrepancies can be traced to the responsible examiner. The amount such an examiner would be paid would be based on the number of scripts that the examiner would have marked as indicated by the marks linked to the examiner.

Advantages of the Malepa Application in the processing of National Examinations

- It is an integrated system that would process all the three levels of examinations; PSLE, JCE and the BGCSE.
- Automation of most processes and cut down on turnaround times.
- Online registration reduces the costs of postage, delivery and transport for private candidates and BEC.
- Real time capture of details means centres can be advised as they enter the details.

- Centres can print certain forms like Statements of Entry (SoE) immediately after they have registered candidates to verify entry details without waiting for BEC to send such reports by post.
- There is a data base that will forever hold the history of any transaction relating to candidates registration, Examining personnel and payment details.
- The audit trail facility ensures that any interaction with the system is recorded and can be tracked to the source of the change with the use of access rights.
- The integrity of the data is enhanced by the use of access control into the various data areas in the system.
- Improved accuracy regarding the payment of examining personnel as this would be within the system and any overpayment and redress for such is inbuilt in the system.
- The Business Intelligence (BI) System interface allows for complex reports to be drawn out of the data in the database.
- The Unique Candidate identifier would be a useful tool to track candidates performance across examination levels and it would be a useful research tool to track candidates even to their job employment if the birth certificate registration number which ultimately becomes the Omang is used for this purpose.
- The online registration capability would mean that private candidates could access the system wherever they are in the country that has internet connectivity. This would reduce the cost of travel to registration regions as was the case before the advent of Malepa.



Hon Rakhudu, Dr Tsonope and Professor Tabulawa with Mr Nkala at the background (Grey Jacket and black tie)



BEC Council Members Mr Nasim Miller, Dr Gaebolae Tsheko and Mrs Daisy Molefhi



Dr Masibuko, Dr Moahi, Mr Wasanga and Hon. Rakhudu singing the national Anthem



Education Hub Coordinator, Mr Moahi and BEC Council Mr Abel Modungwa



Delegates Listening to the Conference Proceedings



Some of the Conference Local Organising Committee Members



Conference Organising Committee Members being called to the podium by the Conference Coordinator Dr Moreetsi Thobega



BEC Council Member Mr Daniel Tau addressing the Conference



Conference Delegates at Mogonye Kgotla before touring Mogonye Gogdes



BEC Poet of Repute Mr Ronald Lekwape Entertaining Delegates



BEC Council Chairperson Dr Joseph Tsonope in Close Conversation with Professor Richard Tabulawa



The Three Tenors Intertaining the Conference Delegates



Kenayns showing off their cultural attire popularly known for the Masai tribe



Delegates registering for the conference



Botswana delegates during the conference cultural night at Botswana craft



Conference Coordinator Dr Moreetsi Thobega chairing one of the sessions



BEC Chairperson, Dr Joseph Tsonope welcoming delegates to Botswana



It was a night to remember for these Botswana Conference delegates during the cultural night



The cultural night showed Africa's diversity in abundance



Dr Moahi (R) with one of the AEAA Executive Committee Members at the Cultural night



Dr Humprey Monono leading the Cameroonian delegates to stage on the Cultural night



BEC Assistant Public Relations Officer Ms Karabo Morule (R) with one of the delegates during the cultural night



BEC Director Product Development and Standards Mrs. Susan Makgothi welcoming delegates at the Welcoming dinner, Cresta Lodge



Delegates at "Logaga la ga" MmaSechele (Manyana)

Wasanga Applaud Botswana for AEAA Conference

By Charles Keikotlhae



Mr Paul Wasanga

The Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) past immediate President and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Kenyan National Examinations Council (KNEC) Mr. Paul Wasanga has expressed appreciation to the Government of Botswana for supporting Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) in hosting the 30th AEAA Conference.

Mr. Wasanga was addressing the 30th AEAA annual conference official opening meeting at Gaborone International Convention Centre on the 6th of August 2012. The KNEC CEO stated that it was not for the first time that Botswana hosted the association: Eight years ago in 2004 since the AEAA conference was held here in Botswana I have had an opportunity to visit this beautiful city of Gaborone and move around twice since then," adding that "I can confirm that Botswana as a country has witnessed sustainable growth in all spheres and especially in the education sector.

In 2004 when we were here, BEC did not exist. We were hosted by Examinations Research and Testing Division of the Ministry of Education. Today we have a fully fledged Examinations Council," he said.

Dr. Moahi Serara was actually the Conference Director for the 2004 conference. Today she is the CEO of the new BEC. This is a lot of progress to the glory of God with hard work of Botswana people.

The KNEC CEO stated that the association is, in the business of certifying the human resource of Africa and releasing them to the African and the world economy.

He pointed out that during the AEAA 29th conference held in Nairobi, Kenya in August 2011 where over 200 delegates participated, high quality papers were submitted some of which are in the AEAA Journal, and are a source of information for policy makers to improve on the quality of examinations in the AEAA member countries.

Mr. Wasanga revealed that through continuous engagement of the association in research initiatives, the 30th conference was to be used as a platform for disseminating the findings of a collaborative research project on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Test Item Selection and Banking in high stakes examinations in Africa. This research was jointly conducted by the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC), Cameroon GCE Board, Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) and Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board of Nigeria (JAMB).

The project was coordinated by KNEC and a training module based on the IRT Item banking software (AEAA SUITE) was developed to facilitate the migration into e-testing and the use of Computerized Adaptive Testing, he said.

Mr. Wasanga pointed out that use of ICT in examination management has developed fast and gained prominence amongst examination boards in Africa: "We know that Zimbabwe Schools Examination Council (Zimsec) has started marking electronically with a focus on two subjects. This kind of innovation will definitely help the examination board to ensure accurate marking and enhance the quality of results.

He stated that the hosting the 30th AEAA Annual Conference by BEC presents a rare and strategic opportunity for Examination Boards represented to tap into the knowledge of different assessment and examination approaches to enrich their own practices, adding that the conference under the theme Reforms in Education Assessment for Regional Assessment would serve as a platform for exchange of innovative ideas on examinations and assessment issues for the benefit of all countries represented including Botswana.

BEC Workshops Chief Invigilators



Dr Augustine Utlwang
BEC Manager JCE & PSLE

As a normal practice, Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) conducted workshops for Chief Invigilators from 28th February to 13th March 2012 in preparation for the 2012 national examinations.

The Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) starts on the 8th to the 12th October 2012 and the Junior Certificate Examination (JCE) starts on the 22nd October to the 2nd November 2012 while the Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education starts on the 8th October to the 16th November 2012.

The workshops were used to train the Chief Invigilators for PSLE, JCE and BGCSE on the examinations conduct, registration of candidates, the new BEC Examinations Processing System (MALEPA) and issues pertaining to Special Needs.

Such workshops do not only provide an interactive forum between school administrators and BEC, but also serve as skills transfer modes.

The workshops allow teachers to learn about examinations conduct, reasons for registration and about new development at BEC such as MALEPA. Some teachers have expressed satisfaction about the effectiveness of the BEC logistics in information dissemination. Teacher Managers are also allowed to advise BEC on issues of concern. They therefore serve as an evaluative mechanism of BEC operations.

There were four venues for PSLE, namely; Gaborone, Francistown, Maun and Palapye. The JCE workshops held were in Francistown and Gaborone while for BGCSE only one workshop was conducted in Gaborone.

Forgery of BEC Certificates Causing Concern



Mr Rogers Lekhane
BEC Security Specialist

Alteration or fabrication of BEC certificates is a criminal offence and have legal consequences.

Recently, BEC has detected quite an alarming number of counterfeit qualification certificates incidents, where certificates especially for BGCSE, were maliciously

altered and used to fraudulently obtain employment or a place at an educational establishment. These cases raise concern and according to BEC Security Specialist Mr. Rogers Lekhane, the Council has embarked on countermeasures aimed at addressing these occurrences, and to ensure the credibility of BEC certificates.

He stated that part of these initiatives is to educate the public on the existing trend and how to guard against this phenomenon. He disclosed that BEC has also started intensifying its partnership with Botswana Police to ensure that cases of this nature are reported and handled diligently.

He indicated that BEC provides prompt verification of certificates for all examinations qualification levels offered. Mr. Lekhane said that such services are meant to assist individuals, organisations and educational

establishments to authenticate suspicious certificates and also to deter forgery. According to Mr. Lekhane the aim is not only to minimize but eventually to eliminate the possibility of fraudulent certificates and to ensure that BEC certificates continue to be recognised both locally and internationally.

BEC has statutory obligations under the Act to conduct, regulate and protect the integrity of examinations. Perpetual increase of falsified certificates therefore, presents a threat to social stability and the examination system, and may undermine confidence in the authenticity of BEC certificates, hence the need for effective controls.

Falsification or False making –entails the creating of a false document from scratch; which may include the making of fake or fictitious certificates. Alteration on the other hand, includes **To page 12**

BEC Advances “An Educated and Informed Nation” Pillar

The 1st of September 2012 marked yet another launch of the Vision 2016 awareness month at Bobirwa sub-district in Robelela village 55 Km North of Selibe Phikwe.

The vision went with the theme Living the Vision Yame le wena , in which BEC took part as one of the drivers of an educated and informed nation, pillar.

The Vision 2016 Awareness month is a national annual project aligned to the National Development Plans (NDP's) to improve the lives of the citizens of the country. Therefore, the annual event which is conducted in various districts serves as a reflection of the measurement of long term strategic plans to see if they are still on the

right track to the intended vision 2016 goals. The 2012 Awareness month launch was officiated by His Honour the Vice President Mr. Ponatshego Kedikilwe who visited the BEC stall and applauded the Council on its efforts to assist the country realise its goals through national examinations.

The BEC Public Relations Officer Mr. Charles Keikotlhae also pointed out to His Honour the Vice President that BEC also contributes to the other vision 2016 pillar of a compassionate and just caring nation as it extended its helping hand through sponsorship to different entities such as Setswana debate tournament hosted by the University of Botswana Debate Masters Association. As part of Vision 2016 activities at Robelela BEC together with BOCODOL

made presentations at Mmadinare Senior Secondary School on their mandates and the services they offer and the two were joined the following day by the Office of the Auditor General in similar presentations at Selebi Phikwe Senior Secondary School just a day before the Awareness month launch in Robelela.

Some of the topics that BEC staff explained at their stall in Robelela included the annual excellence awards which aims at improving performance during the national examinations and replacements of lost or damaged certificates, external examinations conducted by BEC, examinations malpractice and registration fees for private candidates.



His Honour the Vice President Dr Ponatshego kedikilwe at BEC stall



BEC PRO Mr Charles Keikotlhae Addressing Mmadinare SSS students as part of Vision 2016 Awareness month launch activities

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obtaining a genuine document and changing it in some areas. This element covers unauthorised changing of any writing on the educational certificate, be it the names of the candidate, symbols etc. As per the laws of Botswana, section 339 of the Penal Code Cap. 08:01, Forgery is defined as the making of a false document with intent to defraud or to deceive. Section 341 further defines the Making of false document as; the making of document purporting to be what in fact it is not; or alters a document

without authority in such a manner that if the alteration had been authorized it would have altered the effect of the document.

The Penal Code further spells out the punitive consequences of forgery and that any person who forges any document, thus including BEC certificates; shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years. Furthermore any person who knowingly and fraudulently utters a false document is also guilty of an offence of the

BEC Left an Indelible Mark on Consumer Fair Participants

By Kaboyamodimo Mokoti



Consumer Fair participants at BEC stall 1



Students writing mock exam at BEC stall 1

The Botswana Examinations Council Executive Secretary, Dr. Serara Moahi has encouraged Orapa Community Junior Secondary School (CJSS) students, teachers, and parents to double up their efforts in maintaining and even surpassing their 2011 pass rate.

Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) left an indelible mark on Botswana Consumer Fair participants. The Fair was held from the 23rd – 29th July 2012.

BEC is mandated under section 5 of the Botswana Examinations Council Act (Act No .11 of 2002) to conduct school examination and any other examinations for the Ministry of Education and Skills Development and issue certificates for such examination and the Public Relations Office is responsible for

educating the public on this mandate. Some typical services which were provided at the BEC stall ranged from information dissemination on procedures and processes followed during registration for examinations, Botswana National Examinations Processing System (BNEPS), the Annual Excellence Awards event and the conduct of mock examination in which four questions were put across to volunteers. The questions were tailored in a manner that will assist the Council to reflect on the effectiveness of its public education efforts in meeting the goals of BEC Customer/Stakeholder satisfaction strategic theme.

A reflection on the event showed that the Consumer Fair was an appropriate platform and time for the organisation to interact with its stakeholders/customers as evidenced

by a large turn up of both adults and children at the BEC stall. Most of those who turned up put across different questions and appreciated the immediate reciprocal communication they got from the BEC staff manning the stall.

As part of motivation and branding purposes, people who came to the BEC stall and participated in the mock examination were given some BEC promotional items such as lanyards and BEC lapel pins.

The consumer fair, which is an annual event, creates an opportunity for both government and private institutions as well as SMMEs to showcase their products and services and BEC was not left behind.

same kind, and shall be liable to the same punishment, as if he had forged the document in question. Moreover, Botswana Examinations Council Act Section 25 (f) stipulates that any person who forges a certificate commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding less than P5 000-00 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.

The BEC Security Specialist pointed out that identifying document alteration requires focus, attention to detail and in some cases, forensic technology

or expert assistance. Mr. Lekhane said that document alterations occur in a number of forms, including erasures, ink or font differentiation, etc.

However, such occurrence is easy to spot, though it may require forensic expertise to fully analyse the cause or origin. He appealed to BEC staff members, as ambassadors of the organisation, to be very vigilant and play a major role in the fight against this phenomenon. Examinations and Certification Security is our collective responsibility!!!

Oaitse Gabadirwe Profile



Oaitse Gabadirwe

Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Oaitse Gabadirwe to its Executive Management Team as Director of Corporate Services

effective 1st October, 2012. Corporate Services Directorate is responsible for, among others, Finance, Human Resources and Facilities & Office Services. His additional responsibilities include serving as the Council Board Secretary as well as the Principal Officer for BEC Employees Pension Fund.

Mr. Gabadirwe is a graduate in Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) from the University of Botswana and a Chartered Management Accountant with Chartered Institute of Management Accounting (CIMA). He is currently pursuing his Masters in Business Administration degree with the University of Derby.

Mr. Gabadirwe is not new to BEC as he has been serving as the Council's Finance Manager responsible for the Finance and Procurement portfolios. He has extensive experience in Corporate Governance issues, having served as Secretary of some Board substructures such as Tender Committee, Audit Committee, Finance and Procurement

Committee and that of the BEC Council. Before joining BEC in July 2010, Mr. Gabadirwe was the Finance Manager at National Food Technology Centre after serving as a Business Consultant, targeting SMMs through Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) and Citizen Entrepreneurship Development Agency (CEDA).

He started his career with Botswana Defence Force where he worked for 11 years, first as an Accounts Officer and rose through the ranks to become Manager of Welfare Schemes and later Director responsible for the Army's Recurrent Budget alongside other Finance responsibilities.

With such a wealth of experience in Finance and Accounting spanning 17 years, in addition to his qualifications, Mr. Gabadirwe is strategically positioned to assist the Council in delivering on its mandate and to successfully implement its current 5 years strategic plan.

The Council wishes him well in his new role.

BEC Lost a Dedicated Employee

Mr. Douglas Mmika Teenage Mokone was a dedicated employee who for the past 23 years has been working with examinations after leaving Maun Secondary School.

Hailing from Masiana ward in Mochudi, Mokone started his work with the then Division of Examinations Research and Testing in the Ministry of Education and when the Division was transformed into Botswana Examinations Council in 2007, together with some of his then colleagues, they joined the new entity to continue with the examinations work.

To those who worked closely with him, Mr. Mokone was an energetic and productive employee who has left a gap at the Directorate of

Examinations Administration and Certification. He was also engaged in farming and was eager to see those around him doing well in life especially in farming.

By the time of his untimely death on the 10th of September 2012, Mr. Mokone was working as Programme Assistant (BGCSE) office and was about to go to school to study Diploma in Administration with IDM. "Teenage" was born on the 2nd of February 1965 and was the fifth son of Mr. Petros Mokone and Mrs. Grace Mokone.

He was buried in his home village of Mochudi on the 15th of September 2012 and leaves behind his mother, his betrothed, three sisters and four brothers. May his soul rest in peace.

It is Good to Meet but Sad to Part

By Kaboyamodimo Mokoti

The Executive Secretary's Office organised a fare well dinner for Ms. Victoria Rabasha and Ms. Botlhe Botumile at Yarona Country Lodge in Mogoditshane on the 28th June 2012.

Bidding them farewell, the BEC Public Relations Officer Mr. Charles Keikotlhae said that the two whose two year contracts came to an end mid-June this year left the Public relations office with a bid gap and that it would create a lot of pressure and need to come with better strategies to cover for their absence. Botlhe affectionately known as Miss B had passion and determination

for her daily duties and during her stay with us she demonstrated true leadership skills which made it easier for us to overcome some of the timelines and pressures, said Mr. Keikotlhae.

On Ms. Rabasha Mr. Keikotlhae had this to say: I had time to work with Ms. Victoria Rabasha before at one particular organisation and she joined me here at BEC. Vicky as known by her peers proved to be a good learner and caught up quickly on issues and she maintained an element of rapid personal learning and growth, said Mr. Keikotlhae.

As for Ms. Botumile, she expressed sadness by parting with her colleagues and had this to say: There is a hole within my heart right now, it has been a long and fruitful journey working at BEC and the opportunity they gave me and the leadership skills I acquired will leverage me to a better life .

Ms. Rabasha lamented that, I really don't have words to say at the moment as I feel as if I lost a close relative here .

Mr. Keikotlhae encouraged the two saying that, it is not the end of the road .



LEFT: Ms. Botlhe Botumile and Ms Victoria Rabasha

Mr. Charles Keikotlhae giving the present to Ms. Botlhe Botumile

Ms. Victoria Rabasha receiving her present from Mr. Keikotlhae

Mr. Ndingo Johwa(M) came in to say good bye

APPOINTMENTS	APPOINTMENTS		DATE
	Mr. Oaitse Gabadirwe	Director Corporate Services	1/10/2012
	Mr. Moses Kaisara	Strategy Manager	13/8/2012
	Ms. Maipelo Kgasa	Strategy Analyst	4/6/2012
	Mrs. Keolebogile Sakarea	Senior Programme Officer	1/6/2012
	Mr. Slumber Ramadi	Senior Programme Officer	1/6/2012
	Ms. Kagiso Maule	Senior Researcher	1/6/2012
	Bonang Tshukudu	Accounts Officer	12/1/2011
	Thulaganyo Retshabile	User Support Technician	3/7/2012
	Fiona V. Kebalefetse	Receptionist	3/12/2012
	Mrs. Tsholofelo Baitse	Switchboard Operator	1/5/2012
	Mrs. Motswasele Tamati-Mononyane	Secretary	1/5/2012
Dr. Oemetse Mogapi	Senior Research Officer	1/5/2012	
Mrs. Veronica Matsheka	Senior Product Development Officer	3/12/2012	

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 and 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.



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