

Botswana Examinations Council



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BOS ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFICATION



Acting Managing Director of BOBS Mr. Theko Fako presenting ISO 9001:2008 certificate to BEC Executive Secretary Professor Brian Mokopagosi with BEC Board Chairperson Dr. Joseph Tsonope

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BY KEOITSE P. MOGOTSI

On the 19th May 2017 the Botswana Examinations Council held a certification ceremony at its premises where the Botswana Bureau of Standards handed over a BOS ISO 9001:2008 certificate to the Council.

The ceremony was honoured by the Acting Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Basic Education Mr. Simon Coles who is also BEC Board Member, BEC Board Chairperson Dr. Joseph Tsonope, Deputy Managing Director of Botswana

Bureau of Standards Mr. Theko Fako and members of the Media.

The BOS ISO 9001:2008 provide a framework of globally recognised principles of quality management and with the ISO certification, this means that BEC pledges to provide services that consistently conform to requirements specified in BOS ISO 9001:2008 Standards. BEC employees will therefore, have to ensure that they follow processes and procedures in their daily work so as to deliver world class service to BEC clients.

Speaking at the ceremony the Executive Secretary

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of Botswana Examinations Council Professor Brian Mokopakgosi said that BEC is now joining an elite group of parastatal organisations in the country that are ISO certified, which is a significant accomplishment in its quest for quality. Prof. Mokopakgosi highlighted that the implementation of the ISO 9001:2008 Project was initiated in 2009 and was initially to be completed in 2011 but the Council experienced some challenges which led to the review of timelines for the delivery of the project. It was only in 2015 when the BEC management started working on the ISO 9001:2008 project again. He further said that the achievement of the certification was not a stress free mission, particularly for a large organisation like BEC with many functions, complex processes, and extremely sensitive business continuity. He said that BEC is aware that elsewhere within and outside borders transition period of ISO 9001:2015 has already began and he is sure BEC is going to be amongst other companies who will not only maintain certificate status to September 2018 but will eventually obtain ISO 9001:2015 certification. The Executive Secretary said now BEC stands out as one of the benchmarks for the rest of the Examinations Boards in Southern African Development Countries (SADC) region.

Before handing over the certificate to BEC the Acting Managing Director of Botswana Bureau of Standards said the certificate is a testimony and knowledge that the Quality Management System (QMS) of Botswana Examinations Council as assessed by BOBS, was found

to be in conformance to the requirements of BOS ISO 9001:2008 Standard. "The scope for your certificate covers Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) Junior Certificate Examinations (JCE) and Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE), as well as administration of external examinations", said Mr. Fako. He further said that in today's business transactions worldwide, preference is given to certified organisations as this gives confidence to one's principals and stakeholders. He said the certification assures that one transacts business in an orderly manner because the processes and procedures are monitored continually to ensure continual improvement.

Mr Fako handed the BOS ISO 9001 certificate and flag to BEC and the flag was installed on the same day during the event at BEC. The handing over entitles BEC to use the BOBS certification logo on publicity and advertising material for promotional purposes. BEC acquired the Quality Management System certification after hardwork, commitment and determination that was shown by all during stages of audits which were conducted by Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS). Being certified means that BEC employees should continue to follow their quality standards, maintain the good work to retain the certificate as this attributes to the highly recognised work experience internationally. Also being certified means that there will be improved productivity, reduction in operational costs, improved service delivery to stakeholders and a strong basis for continual improvement at BEC.

ACCREDITATION OF THE BGCSE BY CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS (CIE)

BY KARABO MORULE

The week of the 10th to 14th April 2017 proved to be extremely important to the Botswana Examinations Council (BEC). The Directorate of Product Development and Standards through the Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) division retreated for five days in a bid to re-align their procedures and forms to the University of Cambridge International Examinations "Accreditation Standards for Public Assessment Bodies".

The standards are organised in six sections and each focuses on one aspect of the work of an assessment organisation and contains a varying number of standards. BEC is expected to be able to demonstrate how each standard is shown in its

own practice.

Accreditation is the process in which certification of competency, authority, or credibility is presented. Organisations that issue credentials or certify third parties against official standards are themselves formally accredited by accreditation bodies such as University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES). BEC, like any other examination bodies has made a partnership with CIE. The CIE requirements of the standards are tailored to BEC's unique situation and based on International best practice, their long experience of working on a range of varied projects, International research from Cambridge Assessment and the University of Cambridge.

Cambridge

International Examinations (CIE) works in partnership with governments and national education organisations around the world to review, design and develop curriculum programmes, assessment models and approaches to teaching and learning. Their long history of collaborating successfully with ministries of education started over 100 years ago with Mauritius, Singapore and Brunei. Today, they continue to provide national examination services to ministries and deliver innovative solutions that are especially tailored to the countries' local context. They provide all the supporting services needed to implement education development programmes

International

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BEC Corporate Communications team pictured with Business Botswana President Mr. Lekwalo Mosienyane at the Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair after receiving the Award

BEC Wins An Award At The Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair

BY: JACQUELINE MONEI

Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) won third place prize in the Education and Training Category at the Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair awards held on Friday 26th May 2017 at Tati River Lodge, Francistown.

The Fair was held on the 24th May until the 28th May at Business Botswana grounds in Francistown. Business Botswana hosts the fair annually to provide a platform for businesses to network, market their products and services and to share information.

It provides a one-stop-shop where all exhibitors and visitors are able to come together and network in one place, creating business connections and trade opportunities. The trade fair that was attended by over 200 exhibitors was held under the theme: "Agility in Botswana: Optimising Business in 50 years and beyond, the theme talks to businesses

and organisations to adapt to the changing market. Speaking during the awards ceremony, Business Botswana President, Mr. Lekwalo Mosienyane said that the trade fair enables participants to stay up to par with industry trends. Mr Mosienyane highlighted that Business Botswana will continue to stimulate growth by working with Government and The Private sector in promoting and building a great economic growth in the market.

Senior Corporate Communications Officer Mr. Charles Keikhotlhae said the achievement was a team effort, following proper planning. He said that Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair is a platform that BEC always takes full advantage of reaching out to its stakeholders in the Northern Region of the Country.

Botswana International University of Science (BIUST) took first position while Shashe Brigade came second under the Education and Training Category.

ALL SYSTEMS GO

BY LESEGO NTULUKI

The BEC in collaboration with the Ministry of Basic Education will on the 13th of July host the 8th Annual Excellence Awards.

The ceremony that will have His Excellency Lt. Gen. Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama as the Guest of Honour will be staged at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC). This year a total

successfully.

It is well understood that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to changes in education. CIE hence recommends achievable and effective solutions that bring about tangible improvements in education. CIE works with BEC to offer a range of development approaches and to implement changes locally while making sure that they are effective. Currently CIE is working with BEC to establish working practices and procedures for the long term and help to develop expertise.

CIE helps to develop the necessary knowledge and skills in the Botswana Examinations Council's BGCSE division through moderation of some processes for compliance with the accreditation requirement so that they can operate independently of them. They earlier developed BEC's capacity through face-to-face training, online training, on-the-job training and are continuing to do that.

of 37 students will be awarded for their excellent effort in the 2016 examinations. Of the 37 recipients, six (6) are Special Education students with hearing and visual impairment.

Corporate Communications Manager Fingile Makgalemele is confident that albeit financial challenges faced by the organisation, the event will still go on. "We have seen a decline in sponsorship but we are exhausting all measures to make sure we host the event," she confirmed. Makgalemele said the BEC and MOBE are working tirelessly to solicit the business community to join hands with the organising committee in raising funds for the event.

Preparations for the event are at an advanced stage and there is no reason to panic as the BEC looks forward to toasting to the 8th stanza of the Excellence Awards. The BEC choir will be amongst the entertainers of the day.

Staff Matters

ISO Ceremony, BEC at Business Botswana Northern Fair & Strategy Roll-out



LESHVINCE'S QUICK 5



Tsholo Baaitse

Q. Lunch box or deli food?

A. **Lunch box**

Q. Church or partying?

A. **Church**

Q. Formal Wednesdays or Smart Casual Fridays?

A. **Formal Wednesdays with the blue shirt**

Q. Weave or natural hair styles?

A. **Weave**

Q. Heels or flats?

A. **flats**



Communications Office

1. Mr Mhlanga and his marimba group entertaining during the ISO Ceremony.
2. BEC Executive Secretary and BEC Board Chairperson receiving the ISO certification flag.
3. BEC choir mesmerising the audience during ISO Ceremony.
4. Ms. Malebang doing what she does best at the Strategy roll out event.
5. BEC Board Chairperson with the help of Mr. Mpotsang hoisting the BOBS BOS ISO 9001 flag.
6. Audience at the well attended ISO Ceremony
7. BEC staff paying attention at the Strategy roll out event.
8. BEC Strategy Manager Ms. Sealetsa presenting to staff at the Strategy roll out event.
9. CCD team presenting to judges at the Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair.

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