

BOSE GETS SHELTER



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EDITOR'S NOTE

The festive season is amongst us. This is a period normally spent with loved ones and for us it is also a period to celebrate. The year 2019 has been a hectic one, with the Policy and Strategy conference held in Gaborone and various workshops held across the country. There was also a buzz of activities in quite a few districts with training, mass packaging to address the issue of backlog and graduation of poverty eradication beneficiaries.

Kgatlang, Sowa, South East, North East, Boteti, Bobirwa, Maun and Lobatse have since cleared backlog and progress is being made to clear the backlog in Tonota, Jwaneng, Palapye and Mahalapye. Various partnerships have been established, and resulted in some products now being on the shelves at various stores including Choppies and Saverite.

Furthermore various stakeholders were engaged in a bid to forge relations for great impact. For example, Civil Society Organization, Churches and the Youths were engaged. The same will be done with Dikgosi for improved monitoring. The Primary School feeding system has also been aligned to support the poverty eradication initiative, as the programme beneficiaries now supply

eggs to schools as part of the menu. As is now practice to use this platform to recognize those of us whose performance has been conspicuous, we have three this



**Montshiwa Monty
Montshiwa**

time around. These are: Mr. Bakuedi Masole, Deputy District Commissioner-Mahalapye; Ms. Abaleng Kombane Gender Officer I, Serowe; and Ms. Matshidiso Kaisara, Assistant Economist-Bobonong. Please join me in celebrating these colleagues for their sterling role in the fight against poverty and development of this our beloved Botswana. A hearty thank you to all the programme staff and the implementing partners.

You have all worked diligently and achieved so much in a year. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the readers of these bulletins, together with our followers on social media. May this Christmas bring joy and happiness to you and your families. Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

May God bless us all.



His Excellency recommits to eradicating poverty



His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of Republic of Botswana

By Lesego Kgomanyane

His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi the President of the Republic of Botswana has once again reaffirmed his commitment towards eradicating poverty. Delivering the 2019 State of the Nation Address, the President informed the nation that the country still faced the three intertwined challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. For that reason, these have been prioritized in both the National Vision 2036 and the National Development Plan 11 in order to ensure that lasting solutions are pursued to reverse the trends. He noted that of the 38,418 beneficiaries funded, a total of 29,877 projects were operational and 5,609 projects were at different stages of implementation

across the country. The operating projects have created employment for 33,918 Batswana. His Excellency the President also reported that the packaging backlog had been cleared in nine districts and sub districts, and that the intention was to ultimately clear the backlog in all other area. Furthermore, the President indicated that the Exit strategy had been developed and that it clearly outlines interventions that facilitate ultimate graduation of beneficiaries from poverty. To date 2,094 excelling projects have graduated from the programme. “I awarded certificates of graduation to Thirty (30) of these beneficiaries during the National Poverty Eradication Expo early this year”, His Excellency Dr. Masisi revealed.



BOSE GETS SHELTER



His Excellency and Ms Masego Bose viewing the house, it is fully furnished in every room

By Mpho K. Zachariah

In its expedition to contribute towards Government efforts of ensuring that every Motswana lives a dignified life, Botswana Police College handed over a two bedroomed house to Masego Bose of Mogonye. The house, which is fully furnished with kitchen equipment, lounge and bedroom suite was handed over by His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana. In his remarks, The President stated that it was indeed an honor for him to officiate at such an event as it shows empathy and a good working relations between the police and its community. “I am proud because our intention as government is to eradicate poverty in all facets and have every Motswana

live a dignified life,” he stated.

Dr. Masisi, indicated that government has been putting a lot of emphasis on people living in abject poverty. He however revealed that in future those in relative poverty will be assisted so that they can move up the economic ladder and in return uplift those that are less privileged. He applauded the police for the good gesture.

“The spirit of compassion is what will build our nation,” the President said.

His Excellency indicated that building houses for the less privileged started as far back, during the late President Sir Ketumile Masire era where people were encouraged to sell their assets and use the money to assist those in need.



FISHERIES BREAK THE POVERTY CIRCLE UPNORTH



Food tasting during the Fisheries market day by Minister Arone Bagalatia and Assistant Minister Machana R. Shamukuni

By Mpho K. Zachariah

Office of the President held a fish market day in Shakawe recently. Officiating at the event was Hon Machana Ronald Shamukuni, Assistant Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration. Addressing the people of Shakawe Honorable Shamukuni said the event not only focuses on the fisheries industry but also aims to expose beneficiaries into the mainstream market to providing opportunities that exist under the sector. The event was held under the theme *'Inclusive fight against poverty, a step towards economic stability'*, which confirmed the need to be collective in all sectors

of the economy. It is important to have a team effort from the public, the private sector and the NGOs to unite and face of poverty. The event had many fisheries beneficiaries showcasing different fish species and delicacies. Some were demonstrating various fish preparatory from deep frying, steamed to baked fish as well as making meals out of fish such as 'Gwadi' (soft porridge that is mixed with fish). Participants had a lot to choose from. Shamukuni said that as people of the riverine enclave, it is only appropriate to appreciate and commemorate fish as one of the most prehistoric traditional cuisine among all households in the Okavango basin.



BENEFICIARIES GRADUATE COUNTRYWIDE

By Lesego Kgomanyane

More than 300 poverty eradication beneficiaries across the districts have graduated in recent months. These are men and women from point of lack and are now running successful business enterprises. The graduates, have successfully maximized on the assistance provided to them under poverty eradication programme resulting in the business being consistently profitable over time.

Their lives have also drastically changed and some have either diversified their business ventures or expanded. Graduates were from Serowe, Bobonong, Mahalapye, Selebe Phikwe, Tsabong, Chobe, Goodhope and Palapye among others, and their business enterprises ranged from bakery, catering, upholstery, textile, welding, or one of the 45 packages that exist under the programme.

Some of beneficiaries have managed to accumulate assets while others have created employments for others. During one of the graduation events, Montshiwa Montshiwa, Poverty Eradication National Coordinator indicated that the

key priorities of government is to create employment and eradicate extreme poverty. “It is my strong conviction that our concerted efforts will lead to the eradication of extreme poverty in our country, as we continue to celebrate those that are running successful business enterprises and are now living a dignified lives,” Montshiwa stated.

The graduations were combined with expos for those whose businesses are doing well as a way of helping them reach out to the wider market. Some of the beneficiaries previously packaged are now supporting government to assist others. For example, in Boteti 76 goats were bought from someone previously packaged. This also encouraged many who are benefiting from poverty programme.



Town Mayor Molosiwa Molosiwa awarding graduating beneficiaries certificates in Selebi Phikwe



Mokgenene Mass packaging and Graduation



TOP: Assistant Minister Botlogile Tshireletso packaging a beneficiary; **Middle left:** Tshireletso and Assistant Minister Phillip Makgalemla testing the comfort of chairs manufactured by beneficiaries **Middle Right:** Beneficiaries giving testimonies. **Bottom left:** Ministers Graduating beneficiaries. **Bottom Right:** Assistant Minister Makgalemla giving closing remarks.





OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ENGAGES STAKEHOLDERS

By Lesego Kgomanyane

Office of the President engaged a number of stakeholders this year in a bid to forge relations and enhance collaborations for greater impact with the private sector. The meetings were also to share opportunities to cash in on the mapped value chain around the poverty eradication packages. Some of those engaged include Faith Based Organization, Non -Governmental and Youths. The engagements were meant to identify roles that various stakeholders can play in poverty eradication. Faith Based organizations are commonly known for their role in strengthening communities and as such areas such project monitoring as well

identifying the poor among their communities while others can facilitate in modelling poverty programs to assist in scaling up beneficiary projects. Collaborations with such stakeholders are needed to ultimately contribute to the country's economy, improvement of livelihoods hence the reduction of poverty and unemployment. Office of the President has identified opportunities that have remained underexploited within the programme. Such opportunities exists in areas of transportation, input supply, branding and marketing just to name a few. These value chains are mostly in the pre- and post-production phases of the projects.



Montshiwa Monty Montshiwa, Poverty Eradication National Coordinator, Mr Mogwe and Mr Tekere at the meeting.



Office of the President engagement with Youths



TOP LEFT; Montshiwa Monty Montshiwa Poverty Eradication National Coordinator giving his presentation at the Youth based organisations meeting. **TOP RIGHT;** Attendee commenting on the Presentations **MIDDLE;** Participants at the engagement. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Mr Mogomotsi France giving his presentation. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Mr Tumi Mogwe and his team demonstrating how technology can be used to monitor Projects.





Office of the President Engages Faith Based Organisations



At the faith Based organisations meeting, all were given an opportunity to suggest ways they can contribute in addressing poverty, inequality and unemployment. Different pastors and representatives of christian bodies all had an opportunity.





DETERGENTS PASS BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS (BOBS) TESTS



Packaging of Multi-detergents by beneficiaries in Goodhope-Mabule

By Letlhogonolo Kophuting

In our quest to improve market access for poverty eradication products, Mabule Liquid Detergents and Palapye Liquid Detergents projects were tested by BOBS and met the industry requirements. This is another way to assure consumers of the quality of the products they buy. This has motivated beneficiaries and they are now confident that they will be able to retain their current clients as well as taking the products to new markets. Team work and commitment is the way to success. The Mabule Detergents business has

grown in terms of producing a stream of products: dish washing liquid; pine gel; mega pine; ammoniated surface cleaner; multipurpose cleaner; toilet disinfectant; floor stripper; hand soap; window cleaner; floor polish; bar soap; oven cleaner; and fabric softener. The group is made up of women who work tirelessly to meet their targets. They can produce a maximum of 2 200 Litres of detergents in a day. With minimum education level (lower primary) these women have adapted well to the process and are able, on their own to undertake intricate processes like titration and pH control (including the use of litmus paper to ascertain pH levels). One reads commitment from these beneficiaries as they always go out to nearby villages during kgotla meetings to market and sell their products.



XUUXOO TOILET PAPER GOES BIG!!!

By Letlhogonolo Kophuting

In a historic step, we saw our first product hitting the big market. Xuuxoo toilet paper locally produced in Boteti, in a dusty village of Rakops made a mark by being the first poverty eradication product to be listed in one of the big supermarkets being Choppies Group of Companies in Botswana. This toilet paper is produced by local 6



A client buying a packet of four rolls Xuuxoo toilet paper at Letlhakane Choppies Store

women and 4 men. This men and women are determined to make a difference in their lives. The factory opened doors in January 2019, but in less than a year they have already clinched this big deal. On the 18th October 2019, they made their first delivery at Choppies Letlhakane and the product was well received by the locals that in less than a week the first delivery was finished. They have now made their second delivery which is

also flying off the shelf. Xhumatsikhu TP Company is already looking into expanding their deliveries to other nearby Choppies stores in villages like Serowe, Palapye and Francistown. They are set to be trendsetters in this industry. Boteti residents are really receiving this merchandize with high enthusiasm and are proud to finally have a product that is produced in their own local area.

COOKING HER WAY UP THE LADDER OF LIFE

By Neo Pitse (Mochudi)

Food catering business is a thriving industry which can be scaled and tailored to whatever best suits anybody's skills and situation. Located in a small ward of Moganetsi in Mochudi, is a 39 year old single mother of one; Annah Gouwe who operates a food catering business in the heart of Mochudi just in front of the post office. She benefited from Poverty eradication Programme in 2014 and she has been operating since then. "I really have a passion for food that's the reason why I'm still doing this job today despite the high competition in the food industry. It's a very special area, it's not like an office job, it's more like art and you have to really apply your mind and be creative in order to succeed and above all love it" said Annah in a thrilling smile.

She wakes up every day at 5am to prepare breakfast which consists of serobe, sebate, motogo, dinawa, diphaphatha, and tea. She then prepares lunch which commonly would be Bogobe, Rice, samp, dumblings, maize-rice, pasta, phaleche and mosutlhane which is a favourite meal for those who hate spicy food. In addition to that, she prepares braai meat, fried chicken, beef stew and various types of salads. Since the project inception, Annah has



Annah Gouwe at her workplace serving clients

managed to pay for her child school fees at Raserura English medium.

She spends P200 and P400 of her proceeds on water and electricity every month. She has also upgraded where she lives which is now a beautiful and welcoming place. The business is marketed through word of mouth, and her dream is to open a restaurant and is constantly looking for a place to rent. She has diversified into selling clothes

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which she buys from Johannesburg. Annah saves P200 a day and has since joined a lot of metshelo where they save P50 every Friday, and P100 every day until day 31. She has a bank account and savings

Though there are major players in the catering industry, there are a number of reasons why this business is still appealing to Annah. She says unlike other sectors, the industry is free running as there is no single corporate entity that dominate the market share and this allows everyone who has the passion, skill and strength to compete.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER

Bakuedi Masole Deputy District Commissioner ; Mahalapye Sub



Mr. Baikuedi Masole is chosen for his leadership in the whole poverty endeavour. He is one person who one would find filling all nessenary ticks. Mr Masole is always present to all his teams, a true leadership that we need to take this country to greater heights.

NOVEMBER

Abaleng Khombane, Gender officer ;Serowe




Ms. Abaleng Kombane is a horse, she would work day and night to ensure that her due assignments are done. Her attachment with beneficiaries is very compelling, she assists them with all the love. Kombale is a team player in whatever circumstance, she would mobilise not only her peers but even drive her supervisors to get the job done.

DECEMBER

Matshidiso Kaisara, Assistant Economist; Bobonong



Being an assistant economist in a Sub that does not have a resident district Poverty Eradication coordinator, Ms. Matshidiso Kaisara did rise to the occasion and took up the responsibility. Kaisara is so timely and meticulous in everything she does. She is never reminded to submit her reports. Where she does not understand she is quick to ask.



POVERTY ERADICATION COORDINATING UNIT

Season come, season go, in the darkest corner, the candle glowed on the Poverty Eradication team. Your contribution in the program could not go unnoticed. Despite the difficult circumstances, our achievements are many, operating projects have created 33 918 jobs whilst backlog in most districts stands at almost zero. This could have not been achieved without your hard work and commitment. Thank you and Thank you team. May this holiday season be full of surprises and cheers because you all deserve the best. May your Xmas bring joy and happiness to you and family.

*Yours Truly
Montshiwa Monty Montshiwa*



Office of the President engages Dikgosi in February 2020

Office of the President engages Business Community in February 2020

National Poverty Eradication Expo in February 2020

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