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EDITOR'S NOTE



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National Coordinator Poverty Eradication*

The year 2021 has come to an end. This is the time for all of us to rejoice and spend quality time with our loved ones. For Poverty Eradication it has been a year of goodwill despite the ongoing Covid19 Pandemic. The Poverty eradication endeavour propelled and was recognised globally. His Excellency, The President of the Republic of Botswana Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi was invited to a United Nations General Assembly 76 high level side meeting, where he made a notable contribution that his government has changed policy direction of addressing poverty from reduction to eradication. The same policy shift has gave rise to adoption of the multidimensional approach to addressing poverty hence introduction of Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) measure to track progress. it is in this regard that Botswana has been included for the first time in the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index in 2020.

A nation wide Project visitation by Honourable Dumezwani M. Mthimkhulu, Assistant Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration was another anchor. On his visits he interacted with beneficiaries to give them moral support, motivation, as well as monitor and evaluate projects and most importantly to offer them assurance by government of its support and commitment to the poverty eradication programme.

There were also attempts to win concessions through partnership programme as envisaged by UNDP's donation of tablets to Office of the President, Poverty Eradication Programme, as well as the milestones achieved towards implementation of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) developed and to be signed between Office of the President, Poverty Eradication Programme and Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BUIST) on promotion of science , engineering and technology research based programmes.

Lastly, may i re-define our motto in the whole process of discovering ourselves as beneficiaries, implementers of the programme, leadership presence and of course our dearest partners that, 'we aim to achieve prosperity for all, leaving no one behind!'.
Finally have a MERRY Christmas and PROSPEROUS new year.

HE Reflects on the use of MPI and Poverty Reduction at UNGA 76

BY: Lesego Sepato

In recognition of Botswana's efforts towards implementation of the multidimensional poverty approach, particularly the adoption of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) as an additional measure for tracking impact of poverty initiatives, the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) invited His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi to be a panellist at the UNGA 76 high level side meeting on multidimensional poverty.

His Excellency the President shared with the audience that the Government changed the policy direction of addressing poverty from reduction to eradication in 2011 as the government believed that no one in the country deserved to live an undignified life of poverty. He noted that it was pleasing him that in 2015 the UN followed suit by setting a target of elimination of all forms of poverty under SDG 1.

He mentioned that this policy shift necessitated the adoption of a multidimensional approach to addressing poverty, that is all forms of deprivations experienced by the poor. He further noted that Government had long recognized the importance of non-monetary deprivations experienced by the poor. Hence implementation of various programmes geared towards addressing non-monetary deprivations such as: Shelter/Hous

ing; Access to safe drinking water and energy; Access to Food; Lack of assets; Sanitation; Access to quality education and; Access to quality health. However, there had been no coordinated approach to implementing as well as tracking of the agglomerated impact of these programmes on the poor, but there was willingness within Government to do so and this gave birth to the idea of learning from other countries how they were tackling the poverty endeavor.

As such in 2018, Government, through the Office of the President, co-hosted with UNDP Botswana the first ever International Conference on Poverty. The purpose of the conference was for different countries and experts to share experiences on the fight against poverty, recognizing that poverty is a global challenge. Participants included representatives of various countries such as Bangladesh and Brazil, local experts on poverty (Government, Academia, Research Institutions, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), the poor etc.) and international Organisations.

His excellency went on to indicate that one of the key resolutions of the conference was the commitment by all participants to eliminate poverty in all its forms, hence the multidimensional approach to addressing poverty was endorsed for its holistic nature. The approach considers all the deprivations experienced by the*story continues in page 6*

UNDP Donates Tablets to Office of the President



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: UNDP Resident Representative Mr Balazs Horvath, Assistant Minister Hon Dumezweni Mthimkhulu MOGPAPA, Montshiwa M.Motshiwa National Poverty Eradication, Ms Goitsemang Morekisi Coordinator Economic Stimulus Package

By: Mpho K. Zachariah

As part of its continued support to Government of Botswana's commitment to eradicating extreme poverty, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) donated tablets to the Poverty Eradication Coordinating Unit in the Office of The President. The donation was presented to the Assistant Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration, Hon. Dumezweni Meshack Mthimkhulu by the UNDP Resident Representative, His Excellency Mr. Balazs Horvath.

Presenting the donation, His Excellency reaffirmed UNDP's commitment to supporting Botswana's goal of improving the quality of life of all citizens in the

spirit of "leaving No One Behind". He indicated initiatives that the UNDP had participated jointly with Government to improve livelihoods in Chobe and Ngamiland as well as the development of the Poverty Eradication Policy. This particular donation was being made in order to assist the Poverty Eradication Programme in combating poverty in various regions in Botswana. The Resident Representative further indicated that the tablets will act as an enabler to closing down the data gaps that Botswana has openly acknowledged in various mediums, including in the on-going 11th National Development Plan. The UNDP, together with the Government of

.....*Continues in page 7*

OUTBREAK UNLEASHES LOCAL PRODUCTION POTENTIAL

BY: Mpho K. Zachariah

In the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic, which had a huge impact on projects funded under the Poverty Eradication Programme, it has become essential for beneficiaries to be supported in various ways to recover from the effects of the pandemic. Such support include facilitation to grow projects, moral support and motivation to beneficiaries, above all, to assure the beneficiaries of Government's commitment to the poverty eradication endeavour. It is against this background that Honorable Dumezweni Mthimkhulu, Assistant Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration, undertook to visit programme funded projects across the districts to appreciate, from the beneficiaries themselves what their experiences, successes and challenges were, and better still how they could be supported going forward.

The Covid 19 outbreak unleashed local potential in the production of sanitary amenities, vegetable production, egg production etc. During his visits, the Assistant Minister encouraged beneficiaries to amongst other things think of innovative ways to not only grow their businesses but also improve their product quality, to be competitive in terms of product pricing in order to break into the market. Growing their businesses includes buying specialized machinery such as those used for embroidery. During this visit, the Assistant Minister met beneficiaries of special projects such as the horticulture projects in Mahalapye, Molalatau & Maun; fishery projects in



FROM LEFT ; Hon. Dumezweni Mthimkhulu, Montshiwa M. Montshiwa, Constance Johannes Saloon: Palapye

Parakarungu, Maun and Bobonong; textile and upholstery projects in Mahalapye, Mabele, Lesoma, Selebi Phikwe, Gobojango; welding and fabrication projects in Lesoma, Tsetsebye and Matshelagabedi. Hon Mthimkhulu acknowledged those beneficiaries who have shown commitment are now excelling and their projects have potential of becoming major businesses, noting that could create job opportunities for a lot of people, including university graduates. He informed beneficiaries that government has put measures in place to ensure that their products are purchased both locally and internationally. It was therefore incumbent upon themselves to improve their production, and like other projects elsewhere in the country, so that they also become "millionaire" businesses. Products from the Lesoma welding project are being subjected to Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) testing and certification to facilitate access to markets, as well as the hand sanitizer products from Selebi Phikwe which are now awaiting BOBS certification to facilitate application for an international barcode.

BIUST PARTNERS WITH POVERTY ERADICATION



From Right to left: Hon Dumezweni M. Mthinkhulu, Mr Montshiwa M. Montshiwa, Kgosi Martha Lebang, Hon. Khumo Lekoko, Hon. Councillor Seomile, Hon. Councillor Tidimalo, Edson Malebane, Prof Elisha Shemang, Prof Abraham Ogwu, Prof Otlogetswe Totolo: BIUST

By: Muzhoka Simakwa- Palapye

In the wake of Covid-19, the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), as part of their research mandate, managed to produce hand soaps and sanitisers which were distributed to communities in and around Palapye Sub District. Around the same time, the Poverty Eradication Programme also facilitated its detergent producing projects to produce the same products, albeit using more expensive raw materials. Furthermore, the Programme had 3 projects that were seeking to produce and purify sunflower oil. Conversely, some students at the BIUST were carrying out research on the production of sunflower cake, being a by-product of the sunflower purification process.

Recognising that BIUST research could pioneer new initiatives that could be exploited to improve citizens' livelihoods and also reduce the country's import bill,

the Poverty Eradication Coordinating Unit considered it necessary to collaborate with BIUST to promote science, engineering and technology through research based programmes in their respective mandates.

To that effect, a Memorandum of Understanding

has been drafted and will be signed once agreed upon by both parties. The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a framework in which the two organisations will conduct their cooperative and collaborative relationship to promote science, engineering and technology research based programmes in fulfilling their respective mandates as they strive for the attainment of knowledge based economy.

Areas of collaboration at this point include the production of sanitizers, vegetable oil production, by-products of sunflower oil production which could be used for livestock feeding and improvements on the energy content of charcoal briquettes. In addition to these, BIUST will be offering training to beneficiaries on the process of oil extraction and purification, as well as providing mechanical assistance in respect of the machinery used in the production of some of these products.

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poor, both income and non-income ones such as education, health and living standards. Therefore, the use of Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) measure to track progress on multidimensional poverty was also endorsed.

He mentioned that it as in that regard that in 2019, Government, again with the support of UNDP Botswana, engaged the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) to provide technical assistance on the use of MPI. The process involved all key stakeholders in the fight against poverty in the country such as my Office through the Poverty Eradication Coordination Unit and the National Strategy Office, line Ministries, Statistics Botswana and the Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA).

Through this effort, Botswana was included for the first time in the 2020 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index Report. The results showed that 17.2% of Batswana were multidimensional poor, with a similar pattern as those of the monetary measure where poverty incidence is higher in rural areas. Those in severe multidimensional poverty were at 3.5%.

Based on the Global Report Botswana had been develop its Pilot National MPI, which had been adapted to the poverty context in the country, hence we have social inclusion as an addition to the Global dimensions. The indicators for this additional dimension are unemployment and civil registration. To the existing Global Indicators, upon contextualising, Government had added mater

nal care and access to health facility under the Health Dimension. And noting the country's determination to transit to a knowledge based economy in this era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, computer knowledge has also been added as an indicator under the Education Dimension. The results from the contextualised pilot national MPI revealed that 20.84% of the population are multidimensional poor, while 3.9% are in severe multidimensional poverty.

He posited that though Botswana has just recently started using multi- dimensional poverty measure, he indicated that it would be used to guide the planning system in the country. This he said was because MPI provides information on the deprivations that the poor experience, which invariably helps in poverty policy formulation, coordination, programme targeting and resource allocation. In conclusion, His Excellency the President made an observation that MPI also helps to come up with more responsive and impactful interventions. He further urged member countries to adopt MPI as an additional measure of poverty since it helps in determining key deprivations of the poor, hence facilitates addressing of all forms of poverty.

Leather Bag Sale

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Story continues from page 3

Botswana, anticipate that the enhanced national capacity to collect, consolidate, analyze and package data will be a key input to the highly sought after informed policy and programming decision making process.

His Excellency Mr. Hovarth acknowledged that Poverty Eradication Programme had made some positive strides by piloting aspects of the MPI methodology in some districts and sub-districts, especially those that have the highest recorded levels of poverty. He congratulated the Government of Botswana for all the efforts in pulling its citizens, especially the vulnerable, out of extreme poverty using multi-faceted approaches that identify the causes of poverty, who is affected the most by the poverty and the kind of suitable interventions applied. "I believe that this is where the MPI approach will influence further transformation in the data management space. UNDP is happy to support initiatives that make data collection and processing more efficient."

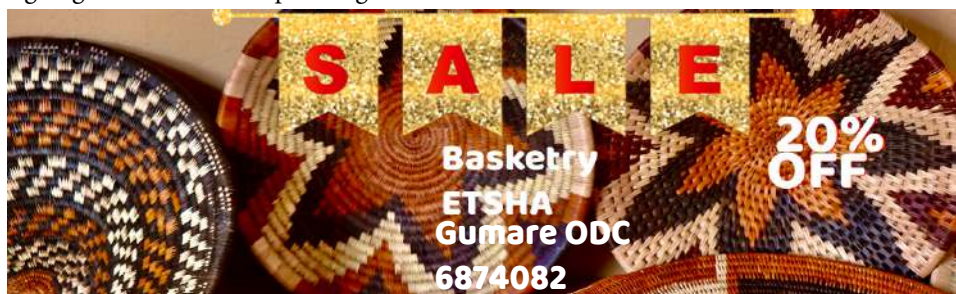
In accepting the donation, the Assistant Minister indicated that the tablets were going to be used in the profiling exercises

in 5 sub-districts that were hardest hit by profiling. He explained that the profiling exercises were meant to identify the poor, the deprivations they experience, the poverty types and drivers as well as establish critical success factors for different locations in the country.

Concluding his remarks, the Assistant Minister acknowledged the role UNDP played in providing both technical and financial support in the development of the Multidimensional Poverty Index. He also acknowledged the support received from both Statistics Botswana and the Botswana Institute of Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) who have also been key players in this effort.



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2. Palapye Beneficiary Constance Johannes's hair Salon is a household name
3. Parakarungu Bakery beneficiary Gladys Nalisho-wa does well against all odds





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PORVETY ANALYSIS
REPORT 2020

CHANGING LIVES, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

