



# BNSC

# NEWS

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 5



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# EDITOR'S NOTE

Our 5th Edition of the Newsletter comes at a time when the world is experiencing a pandemic like no other which literally brought the world at one point to a standstill. This unfortunately does not exclude the sport fraternity which has been badly hit like all other industries. We did however in the past year manage to have a few activities to keep sport alive.

The long awaited Memorandum of Understanding between the Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) and the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) was finally signed bringing with it a promise to close the much talked about overlapping of events and projects.

Amidst all this, prestigious events being the National Sport Awards and the Hall of Fame were held, both honouring the most deserving Athletes, and Administrators.

The newly refurbished Athletes Village was also formally handed to the BNSC for use by the Athletes. The facility will provide Athletes with a comfortable place to stay and also generate income for the Commission.

Lastly it is commendable that the sporting fraternity has been able to withstand the conditions set about by the Covid 19 pandemic and continue to train whenever there is a chance.



Ms Tshegofatso Jeremiah  
Marketing & Communications Officer

The upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympics give us something to look forward to and we wish all those who will be participating the very best of Luck.

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# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BOTSWANA NATIONAL SPORT COMMISSION (BNSC)  
& BOTSWANA NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (BNOC)

BY: KARABO KWADIBANA



*BNSC Board Chairperson – Mr Marumo Morule and BNOC President – Col. Botsang Tshenyego signing the MOU.*

Over the years, speculations have made rounds on who is bigger than the other between the Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) and the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC). However, in spite all the comparisons and speculations, the two(2) organizations have always regarded each other as partners and prioritized their mutual interest in Sport Development before anything else. The BNSC/BNOC have always collaborated on a lot of projects, among them being jointly delivering the Annual Sport Awards, organizing the Annual Sport Science and Coach Symposium as well as facilitating Botswana's preparation for and competitions at the 2019 African Games just to name but a few.

Boards signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with intents of lamenting the relations between the two(2) organizations. Furthermore, through the MOU, both organizations aims to close the overlaps in some of their functions and also collaborate to make sport delivery in Botswana more effective and financially prudent.

*organizations continue with their spread efforts, our athletes will continue to bring fewer medals from international competitions. He further reiterated that the MOU will serve as a manual for ensuring that Botswana athletes and those in support have the necessary tools and a conducive environment in which they can excel. The MoU will run for a period of 5 years.*



*BNSC Board Chairperson – Mr Marumo Morule, addressing the media.*

*In his address the BNSC Board Chairperson Mr Marumo Morule, alluded that if both*

On 2nd November 2020, we witnessed the

## OBJECTIVES OF THE AGREEMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:



*Signed MOU's*

- To facilitate the development and implementation of a National Sport Strategy, under the leadership of Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture (MYSC).
- To align strategies for BNSC (Vision 2028) and BNOC (Strategic Plan 2017-2020) to ensure common vision and aligned strategies.
- To streamline sport development through merging the BNSC's Sport Development Committee and BNOC's High Performance Committee into one structure.
- Facilitate the establishment of a National Coaches Commission.
- Jointly establish an International Games Committee for all sport competitions as envisaged in the 2001 National Sport and the BNSC Act No 30 of 2014.
- Create better efficiencies through merging other Committees existing at the Parties that have duplicating roles and responsibilities.
- Payment of allowances for joint Committees shall be done by the BNSC.
- Jointly promote mass participation programmes.
- To make possible the adoption of a standard uniform for National Teams (same colour) for defined timed periods (e.g. four (4) years cycle tied to the Olympic cycle); with logos determined by the Games guidelines (e.g. Olympic and Commonwealth).
- Standardise and register patents for uniforms.

- Standardise allowances/ incentives for national teams.
- Develop and implement a generic policy governing athletes' scholarship and/or programmes.
- Support and capacitate the Athletes Commission to be all encompassing.
- Appoint Trustees to the Botswana Sport Foundation Trust and provide for both Parties to have a stake in the resources generated by the Trust.
- Develop a tier system for sport in Botswana.
- Consolidate BNSC and BNOC Codes of Conduct into one; a Botswana sport code of conduct.
- Develop Governance Standards for Botswana sport.
- Set minimum requirements for affiliation and registration of NSAs/NFs to both the BNSC and BNOC.
- Facilitate training of NSAs/NFs collaboratively.
- Deliver the Botswana National Sport Awards collaboratively.
- Collaborate on sports infrastructure development (e.g. High - Performance Centre).
- Share resources (e.g. Internal Audit).



*BNOC President - Col. Botsang Tshenyego, addressing the media.*

# BNSC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019/2020

BY: GAONE NTSHUTELANG



BNSC 2019/2020 AGM

*The Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the year 2019/2020 on 10th December 2020. The meeting was split two way with a limited number in attendance at Travel Lodge, Gaborone while others joined virtually.*

Addressing the AGM, the BNSC Board Chairperson Mr. Marumo Morule alluded that it had been exactly a year since they were appointed to the Board of the Commission by the Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development (MYSC), a task which he said has been challenging. He said that upon their appointment they looked forward to working with their sister organ Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) and the Paralympic Association of Botswana to ensure that Botswana will have her best showing ever at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. He said that they had a lot of grand plans which unfortunately went up in smoke due to the outbreak of Covid-19. Mr. Morule said that despite that they did not allow nature to have unfettered control of their destiny, and as a result responded the best way they could, ending the year on a positive and high note as per the annual report which was supplied digitally to all in attendance.

Mr Morule briefly touched on the destruction brought forward by the COVID-19 scourge to the sporting world such as a significant lower activities at a greater cost, keeping athletes in a bio bubble and ensuring general adherence to set protocols. He commended National Sporting Associations

(NSA'S) for the good work so far in keeping athletes and others in sport safe from harm's way.

The financial year 2019/2020 brought about a 22% increase in government funding as compared to the prior year. Year 2018/2019 the Commission was voted a total of P83,700,000.00 while 2019/2020 was P100,700,000.00, which 44% of has been spent by end of November 2020. The BNSC Chairperson stated that although the balance may appear significant when viewed purely from the amount of time before the end of the financial year, it should be borne in mind that most sport activity has only recently resumed and as such implored the NSA's to be very prudent in the utilisation of the limited funds at their disposal as they foresee a challenging financial period ahead.

He further updated the AGM on the following issues; reforms to Botswana Sport structure, Vision 2028 strategy where he reported that the second phase which commenced in 2017 to 2020 was coming to an end this December; recruitment of the BNSC Chief Executive Officer which is nearing its conclusion, restructuring, review of the BNSC act, National Sport and Recreation Policy of 2001, corporate governance code, accounting and auditing as well as relations with shareholders.

*For his part the Caretaker Chief Executive Officer of the BNSC Mr. Tuelo D. Serufho gave a brief overview of the performance of the Commission so far against the 2028 Vision strategy; particularly with respect to the four (4) High Level Targets of Vision 2028. He reported that they had set*

themselves a target of facilitating that sport contributes at least 0.5% of the GDP by 2020 within the strategic goal of improving contribution of sport within society. He also stated that NSAs have been allowed some level of activity after a long time of inactivity due to COVID-19, he encouraged NSAs to take advantage of the refurbished sport facilities such as the volleyball courts in Mater Spei and the Athletes Village for camping. The Caretaker CEO further reported that the commission has taken advantage of the COVID-19 outbreak to improve its technology use to cut costs such as those that relate to communication such as telephone and printing.

In response to the presentation by the Chairperson of the BNSC Board and the CEO, the NSAs representatives responded with questions and comments. In closing Mr. Morule told the attendees that they had the power to change the Sports fraternity through conversations such as the AGM.



Caretaker CEO - Tuelo D. Serufho, Giving an overview performance of the Commission.



BNSC Board Chairperson - Mr Marumo Morule giving update.



NSA's Representatives

# BOTSWANA SPORT HALL OF FAME 7<sup>th</sup> INDUCTION CEREMONY

BY: KARABO KWADIBANA



*Hon Minister, Tumiso Rakgare (Right) BNSC Board Chairperson – Mr Marumo Morule (Left) & Class of 2020 Hall of Fame Inductees (Centre).*

Interesting twist on this year's Botswana Sport Hall of Fame, we saw some of the inductees who have never played nor coached any sport, but have demonstrated exceptional administrative abilities to Botswana Sport. One of them having served the Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) for a period of 36 years as a Messenger, Mr Phineas Maweni, and Mr Gaelebale Joseph Kgosiemang served under Botswana Softball Association (BSA) as the Softball Grounds Keeper for a tenure of 40 years.

The ceremony was held at the National Stadium on 22nd October 2020, however due to COVID-19 regulations only a few dignitaries could attend and the event which was conducted in two set-ups, as well as live on our social media platforms. . The Class of 2020 inductees comprised of Ms. Eva Kerileng Mwila, Netball and Athletics legend; Mr Kagiso Kitso

Kemoeng, former BNSC and BFA Chief Executive Officer, Mr Phineas Maweni; BNSC Secretariat first messenger and Mr Gaelebale Joseph Kgosiemang, BSA Softball Grounds keeper.

The Botswana Sport Hall of Fame is an annual event that is meant to recognize those who have made significant contribution and preserved heritage in Botswana Sport. The initiative is also meant to promote sport and inspire the coming generations. In his keynote address the Honourable Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport & Culture Development Mr. Tumiso Rakgare, emphasized the significance of the event, which is "to immortalize the great deeds, record the acts of heroism and both in celebration of them as well as to inspire others from present day and in the future". The Minister also congratulated the



*Hon Minister, Tumiso Rakgare awarding Mr Phineas Maweni (Inductee).*



*Hon Minister, Tumiso Rakgare awarding Ms Eva Kerileng Mwila (Inductee).*



*Hon Minister, Tumiso Rakgare awarding Mr Kagiso Kitso Kemoeng (Inductee).*

Class of 2020 and welcomed them to the Elite Club of Botswana Sport. He also thanked the inductees for affording athletes the opportunity to have reached sport greatness. He further extended utmost gratitude to the unsung heroes, being the families that continue to serve as the inductees' support system. In his closing remarks, the Minister thanked the BNSC for ensuring that stories and the works of former sport heroes/heroines are being captured and archived through such initiatives.

Upon receiving their token of appreciation from the Minister, the class of 2020 Hall of Fame inductees expressed their profound gratitude to the Minister and the BNSC for the recognition. Dignitaries that also graced the event were the Japanese Ambassador, Mr Masahiro Onishi; Cuba Ambassador Patricia L. Pego Guerra; Permanent Secretary (MYSC) Mr Kago Ramokate, BNSC/ BNOOC Board members, BNSC/BNOOC Secretariat former inductees and National Sport Associations.



*Hon Minister, Tumiso Rakgare awarding Mr Gaelebale Joseph Kgosiemang (Inductee).*



# 40<sup>th</sup> BOTSWANA SPORT AWARDS

BY: KARABO KWADIBANA



Leungo Scotch receiving his 3rd award.

The Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC), in partnership with the Botswana National Olympic Association (BNOC), Department of Broadcasting Services (DBS) and the Ministry of Youth Empowerment Sport & Culture (MYSC) Development hosted the 40th Botswana Sport Awards, on 21st November 2020 at the Mass Media Complex (Auditorium). The objective of this auspicious and glamorous black tie event, is meant to reward athletes' performance for official international competitions and consequently recognizing talent.



BNSC, BNOC & NSA's at Dining Ceremony

The event kicked off with a dining ceremony, in which the BNSC/BNOC Board, partners and National Sport Associations (NSA) dined and wine over sport conversations. Moreover, Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the event was executed in different stations as well broadcasted live on BTV and RB2 and



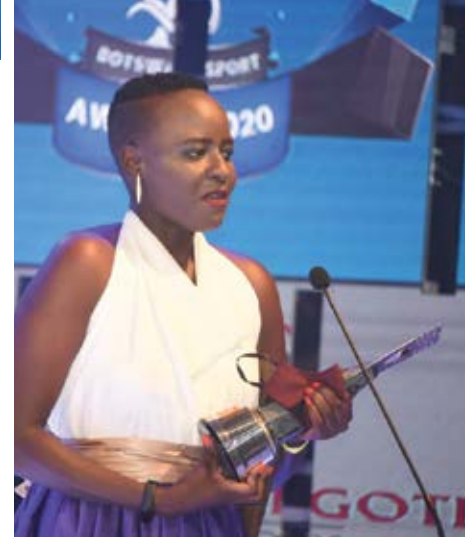
Junior Male Sport Person of the year - Denzel Seetso (Award Recipient).

conducted virtually for inclusion of the public. After the dining ceremony, the event then proceeded to the awards ceremony where we saw the Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) dominating the awards. Even though the BAA did not scoop the NSA of the year category, they however walked away with numerous awards bagging the National Team of the year, Coach of the year, and through the sterling performance of the 400m runner, Leungo Scotch(24) bagging the Sports Person and Sports Man of the year categories.

Let alone being part of the team that won the National Team of the year category! Way to go Scotch!!

One highlight to note, is the first ever Women and Sport Botswana (WASBO) special award category, in which a lot were curious to whom is going to walk away with the award. The award was won by Anastacia M. Sibanda from the Media.

When giving insight on the criteria used to choose the winner, Ms Matlho Kgosi indicated that they were looking at numerous factors among them being; Sport contribution participation of women and girls, creating an inclusive culture by challenging gender issues,



Basketball Umpire, Dorothy Okatch receiving Umpire/Referee of the year award.

an individual who has served as a role model in championing gender inequality in sports and educating and raising awareness on gender issues.



BNSC Board Chairperson - Mr Marumo Morule, Announcing the winner.



Mc's: Dj Izzy & LB (Yarona FM Dj's)



Performance by: Ms Abbet

# 40<sup>th</sup> BOTSWANA SPORT AWARDS WINNERS

## SPORTSMEN/ WOMEN AWARDS

CATEGORY	SPORT CODE	WINNER
Sportsperson of the Year	Athletics	Leungo Scotch
Junior Sportsperson of the Year	Chess	Refilwe Gabatshwarwe
Junior Male Sportsperson of the Year	Tennis	Denzel Seetso
Sportswoman of the Year	Athletics	Galefele Moroko
Sportsperson of the Year	Athletics	Leungo Scotch
Sportsperson with Disability-Male	Special Olympics	Glad Ketlaaleka
Sportsperson with Disability-Female	Special Olympics	Gorata Malehaneng
Sports Administrator of the Year	Boxing	Thato Patlakwe
Umpire/Referee of the Year	Basketball	Dorothy Okatch
Coach of the Year	Athletics	Kebonyemodisa D. Mosimanyane
Non Citizen Sport Award	Taekwondo	Vinay Naicker
National Team of the Year	Athletics	Men's 4 X 400m
Group Code of the Year	Special Olympics Botswana	Special Olympics Botswana
WASBO Special Award		Anastacia M. Sibanda

## MEDIA AWARDS

CATEGORY	MEDIA HOUSE	WINNER
Photographer of the Year	BOPA	Godfrey Mpuse
Electronic Journalist of the Year	Yarona FM	Kagiso Phatsimo
Print Journalist of the Year	Mmegi	Mnqondisi Dube
Print Media House of the Year	Daily News	Daily News
Electronic Media House of the Year	Botswana Television	Botswana Television

# HANDING OVER CEREMONY OF THE BNSC ATHLETES VILLAGE

BY: GAONE NTSHUTELANG

*The newly refurbished Botswana National Sport Commission's (BNSC) Athlete's Village was formally handed back to the organisation by the Architecture, Mr Lesika Senna who has been in charge of overseeing the renovations of the building. The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development, MYSC Leadership, The BNSC Board-Chairperson and members of the Board, President of the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) and the members of the Board, BNSC Secretariat and members of the media on 1st December 2020.*

*In his keynote address; The Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development, Honourable Tumiso Rakgare.*

*indicated that he had been reliably informed that this building block was acquired by the then Council in 2007 for the purposes of athletes lodging while in camp. This is done as a long term strategy to cut costs as athletes had to be booked in hotels during National Team Camps.*

*Over the years the facility has been serving its purpose, however, over time the maintenance costs and upkeep has been lacking due to constant usage by our sportsman and women.*

*With the advice of the Commission, the Ministry made it a priority to avail funds to assist in refurbishing the facility. The total cost of this refurbishment was P 4, 157, 328.00.*



*Hon Minister, Tumiso Rakgare, Officially opening the facility.*

*The Minister further reiterated the Ministry (MYSC)'s commitment, as they are determined to see sport flying the flag high in international competitions.*



*Athlete's Village entrance*

*This facility has sixteen (16) units, comprising of eight (8) 2-bedroom apartments and eight (8) 1 - bedroom apartments all with a lounge, kitchen and bathroom. Over and above these, there is an eating area, office and laundry room which have been constructed as part of the facelift.*

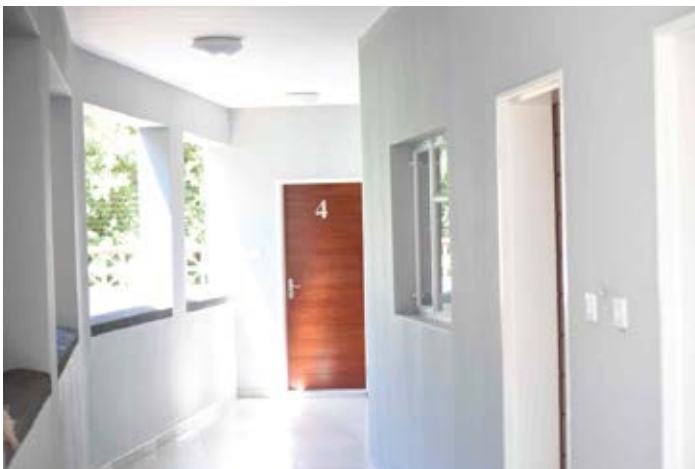
*In the Minister's closing remarks;*

*"I believe that this here facility will surely go a long way in assisting our athletes to perform at their best.*

*It is my wish that this facility will be used to generate revenue for the commission when athletes are not in camp. Therefore there is a need to develop and implement a business plan to manage this facility in a sustainable manner.*

*With those few remarks ladies and gentleman, I thank you."*

## ATHLETES VILLAGE IN PICTURES



*In his closing remarks the BNSC Board Chairperson Mr. Marumo Morule thanked the Minister for taking time from his busy schedule to come and address the attendees. He further indicated that they will endeavour to follow the advice of the Minister and see to it that the facility was used to generate income and be self-sustaining while athletes are not in camp. He said that it was an opportune time to use the facility during the upcoming holidays as people were encouraged not to travel due to COVID - 19.*

*The ceremony ended off with a tour of the facility by the BNOC Board, BNSC Board, BNSC Secretariat and the media.*

# LUNCH WITH THE ELITE BENEFICIARIES

BY: GAONE NTSHUTELANG



Elite beneficiaries at the lunch engagement.

The creme de la creme of present and past elite scholarship beneficiaries were hosted for a lunch by the Sport Development Committee (SDC) on 3rd December 2020 at the Cricket Club. The event was a meet and greet session where the former and current beneficiaries were engaged in conversation on giving back to sport in their different expertise.



Mrs. Tebogo LebotseSebego – Key Note Address

In her keynote address Mrs. Tebogo LebotseSebego who is the Chairperson of the SDC and, also the Botswana National Sport Commission Board Vice-Chairperson reiterated that the objective of the meet was to ignite a conversation between SDC and former/ current Elite Scholarship beneficiaries in Botswana Sport development through coaching, leadership and mentorship.

She further highlighted that the Elites are highly qualified personnel both academically and carry with them wealth of experience (locally and internationally). She therefore said that she was talking to people who understand sports and can bring about change to Botswana Sport structure. Mrs. Lebotse-Sebego pleaded with those that are not currently actively involved in sport to seriously consider coming back as they had the power to change how sport is viewed in the country. She said this can only be achieved if they worked hard, were passionate and determined to do so.

The beneficiaries were given the opportunity to engage with the leadership. Ms. Madonna Malikongwe, who had just graduated and affiliated to Botswana Netball Association said that the four years she spent abroad had broadened her scope academically and in her capabilities as a sport woman. She expressed her hope that she will learn a lot from other previous beneficiaries of the program. Mr Tharindu Pererra who is still at school thanked the leadership for the opportunity that they have been given and said that soon they will be back to give back to the community.

While a lot of the elite graduates expressed their gratitude to the BNSC for the elite scholarship program, and thanked them for hosting them, a few also expressed concern on the lack of opportunities available for them once their sport careers come to an end. They were however encouraged to be the change that they seek to see happen.



Fredrick Keadiretse (Projects Officer Bnsc) – MC



Thato Kgosimore (Beneficiary) – Giving Recommendation.



Tharindu Pererra (Beneficiary) – Thanking BNSC for the opportunity.

# BNSC GYM

BY: DIMPHO DINTWE

Situated at the National Stadium, the BNSC Gym is one of the most equipped and versatile gyms in Gaborone. The gym primarily hosts National Team Athletes and private customers. We offer various exercises and wellness-oriented areas including a free weights area, aerobics area, and cardio machines for any form of exercise you can think of.

The gym hosts evening classes; Spinning, Challenge, Step, Kick and Jab, and Box Step, from 1730hrs to 1830hrs from Monday to Friday, facilitated by the best Instructors. The facility is well kept with cleaning staff to ensure proper hygiene and instructors to assist you in any way possible. The gym is secured by CCTV cameras and has ample parking guarded by security personnel.

Becoming a member of the BNSC gym also affords you full access to the National Stadium, where you will be able to use the track and our stands. Another thing that makes us stand out, is our lowest rates:

## GYM IN PICTURES



	AMOUNT
DAY	P40.00
WEEK	P120.00
JOINING FEE	P70.00
MONTH	P240.00
STUDENTS	P170.00
COUPLE	P380.00
CORPORATE (5 OR MORE PEOPLE)	P180.00
3 MONTHS CONTRACT	P660.00
6 MONTHS CONTRACT	P1260.00
12 MONTHS CONTRACT (NO JOINING FEE, 1 MONTH FREE)	P2400.00

We are open weekdays 05:00 to 21:00 and weekends 07:00 to 12:00. We are closed during holidays.

# DEBSWANA RE BA BONA HA (RBBH) PROGRAM

BY: FREDRICK KEBADIRETSE



Under 15 boys and girls at cricket mass coaching clinic at Obed Itani Chilume Stadium



Karate under 17 boys and girls grading at Tsabong Unified Secondary School

Like other programmes in 2020, Re Ba Bona Ha (RBBH) suffered the same fate of stalled progress with athletes unable to resume training due to COVID-19 health regulations that discouraged mass gathering. With mass participation being one of the cores of RBBH, this made it difficult for the programme to continue, especially with team sports National Sport Association (NSA). Despite the challenges, a good number of activities were organised once the COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed.

## COURSES

**RUGBY** - The Botswana Rugby Union (BRU) organised a Level 1 Strength & Conditioning (S&C) Course in Selebi-Phikwe on 24th October 2020. The course was attended by 9 coaches (7 males, 2 females) and 6 of them were accredited.

**CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR) COURSE** - With efforts to continuously develop coaches at development level, CPR training was identified as an essential component that all coaches at development level must have. It is behind this backdrop that a Level 1 First aid (CPR) course was organised for all RBBH coaches. The courses, facilitated by Rescue

One was conducted in three different places, Francistown, Maun and Gaborone to minimise travel of coaches across zones. A total of 65 coaches were certified in CPR as per the table below;

AREA	DATE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
FRANCISTOWN	07/11/2020	17	3	20
MAUN	13-14/11/2020	26	9	35
GABORONE	21/11/2020	10	-	10
TOTAL		53	12	65

## TOURNAMENTS/ SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

**CHESS** - The Botswana Chess Federation (BCF) conducted a combinations training in Francistown and Gaborone on 14th November 2020. The training was attended by 36 athletes in Francistown and 38 in Gaborone.

**TENNIS** - The Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) organized a RBBH age grade tournament in Serowe from the 27th -29th November 2020. The tournament was attended by 100 athletes and hosted in two venues (Serowe College of Education and National Health Institute). However, the tournament could not be completed due to the unfavourable weather experienced on the second day. The athletes were then awarded certificates of participation.

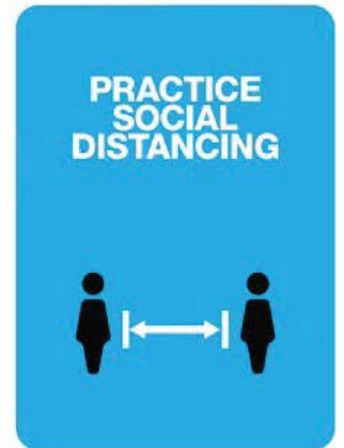
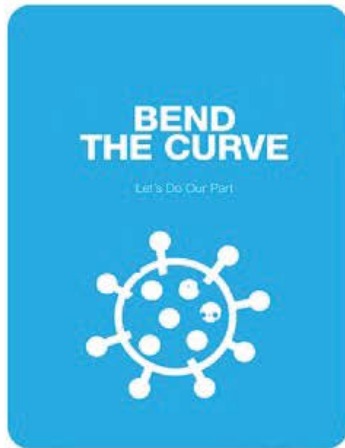
**KARATE** - The Botswana Karate Association (BOKA) conducted training and grading of athletes at the Kasane RBBH Centre at Plateau Hall on 5th December 2020. Following a week of preparations, a total of 31 athletes were graded on the day and 28 of them passed the grading (11 girls, 17 boys). The grading was initially scheduled for August 2020, but could not be done then as athletes were not ready having just resumed training after coming from a long layoff.

## COVID -19 Readiness

Lastly, to assist NSAs cope with challenges brought by COVID-19, the Secretariat purchased cloth masks, hand sanitizers and infrared thermometers for all RBBH centres. These helped those that were returning to action to comply with the set health regulations.

# SHE MOMENT

BY: KENANAO BARUTI



*The COVID 19 pandemic has halted all areas of life and sports, health measures brought limit to how we appreciate sport. Rapid spread of the virus has sadly harmed sport, stadia across the world have remained empty. The ability to bring people together is missed more than ever.*

*In light of all these challenges instigated by the pandemic, the sport fraternity has saw it fit to embrace the new normal. Admittedly, adhering to the COVID-19 health protocols has been a challenge. However, in the Commission's efforts to protect our athletes, sport administrators and contribute in flattening the national curve, a Covid-19 Safety Guidelines has been developed to ensure compliance of National Sport Associations (NSA's) and the sport community. Furthermore, the sport fraternity has been encouraged to embrace technology through hosting of virtual meetings, working from home and to avoid crowding.*

*It is upon us to take responsibility and ensure that we follow the COVID-19 health protocols, if not, we will not be able to beat the pandemic and most all, sport will not resume.*

***Let's stay SAFE, SANITIZE, practice Social distancing and wear our masks at all time.***



# WOMEN AND SPORT BOTSWANA (WASBO)

BY: THULAGANYO REBATSHABILE



WASBO Chairperson – Ms Matlho Kgosi (Left), Sprint Couriers Projects Director – Michelle Gebrial (Centre) and WASBO Co-Founder Setshedi Bothole-Mmopi (Right) at Media engagement & Sponsorship launch.

*Wait! Is it just I or WASBO is certainly on the right track, acronym for Women And Sport Botswana, formed in 1997 as a substructure of the BNSC, its main objective is to advocate for the increased role of women in sports. It was incorporated as a Society as per the dictates of the Botswana Sports Commission Act, No. 30 of 2014. The Association is governed by an executive committee and comprises of Regional Structures. Some of the objectives are to promote community-based participation in sport and recreation and to promote a healthy lifestyle. As well as to establish a network among all women and stakeholders involved in the sport for resource sharing, exchange of ideas, skills, and information.*

WASBO has had a packed calendar of events in the 3rd quarter of the year in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. Not to mention how exceptionally executed the events were. Not so long ago, we saw WASBO announcing a new category at the Botswana Sport Awards and topped it all off by bringing Sprint Couriers as

the category sponsor.

Their activities include;  
Activities:

#### Strategy Cascading Workshop

The event was held in September 2019. WASBO appreciates the importance of cascading its strategy to its members for ownership and implementation as well as the importance of expanding its reach around the country for the existing talent to be nurtured by empowered coaches, mentors, caretakers, parents, and administrators. The cascading was only rolled out to 2 regions being Maun and Francistown out of 7 regions and stopped in March because of the pandemic.

#### Empowerment Workshop

Empowerment workshops are part of WASBO strategy initiatives geared towards developing understanding and basic skills that promote and encourage women and girl's participation and retention in sport under a conducive environment. The empowerment workshop

introduced participants to the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Network Course-Understating Women and Girls Rights facilitated by the YALI Influencer Ms. Keenese Katisenge. The course introduced the participants to the unique barriers facing women and girls, and the practical steps needed to alleviate the barriers.

#### The It's On Us Campaign

The It'sOnUs campaign is a rallying cry inviting everyone to stop and realize that the solution begins with them. It is a declaration that sexual harassment is not only a crime committed by a perpetrator against the victims but a social problem in which all of us have a role to play. We are refraining from sexual harassment in a way that inspires everyone to see it as their responsibility to do something big or small to prevent it. We started the It's On Us campaign last year launching it in Maun and Francistown, the intention was to launch it in all our regions but was disturbed by the pandemic.



WASBO Vice Chairperson – Shika Trivedi

### Women in Sport Pitso

The Pitso was designed to present and discuss a broad range of women and sports matters to come up with resolutions for the development and growth of women and girl child participation in sports. It also gives the opportunity to think, plan, and act together as stakeholders championing gender equality in sports.

The topics that were covered are:

1. Facilitation of conducive environment for women and girl child partnership in sport through policy.
2. Women and sport as part of the national agenda
3. Confronting and tackling challenges that hinder women and girl child's participation and involvement in sport
4. Women sport in the face of COVID-19
5. Engaging new audience, sponsorship, and support for women
6. Elevating Women in leadership through inclusion.

### Media gender-sensitive reporting workshop.

The overall objective of the workshop was to contribute to a more diverse and gender-sensitive and equipped media and society as well as promoting the exchange of ideas and experiences between the media and WASBO. The Media plays a key part in creating and shaping public opinion and therefore a wrong message can lead to prejudices and stereotypes and a right one can assist in fighting discrimination.

WASBO recognized the media as an important stakeholder in helping deliver its mandate of advocacy, guidance, and influence in the creation of a conducive environment for the participation of women and girls in sport in Botswana

### Projects:

#### Mentorship Programs



Thulaganyo Rebatshabile – WASBO PR & Naletsana Ditsele – South Zone League Manager, playing a traditional game (Diketlo).

### WASBO has partnered with the following org for mentorship programs;

1. Steeping Stone
2. Mentorship for Excellence International

The initiative of the partnerships is part of WASBO's delivery of its strategic initiative of conducting mentorship programs to increase the number of girl child and women participation in sport and increase the number of women in sport leadership.

Mentorship is important for growth in all aspects of life. It provides the necessary support and guidance and can help athletes enhance their sport and academic performance, grow their careers, or transition into new opportunities on or to their next careers.

#### Steeping Stone

Steeping Stones International Working Relationship is for the Steeping Stones Dreams Mentorship Project which will be implemented in phases, through different platforms. The target group is adolescent female athletes between the ages of 18-24 based in Gaborone, Mochudi, Otse, and Tlokweng. Other areas will be targeted in the next cohorts. The mentees are linked to a mentor for 3 months providing social assert building (People and Relationship Skills) and layering them (individual intervention or services). Upon Completion of the social assert building, they will be provided with ready to work training workshop covering work and people skills, entrepreneurship, and money skills.

#### Mentorship for Excellence International

In August 2020 WASBO established a working relationship with Mentorship for Excellence International. The organizations join hands in delivering a mentorship project to athletes with a disability in the sport for life skills and character building. This is an important initiative



Members of the Media

as athletes with a disability are marginalized. WASBO appreciates that its role includes empowering all athletes with disabilities so that they could also progress and excel in sport and life. The Botswana Gender and Sport Strategy also call for an inclusive approach to gender equality.

The 8 months mentorship project has come to an end in November and the graduation ceremony was hosted on 3rd December 2020 from 18:00-20:00 in collaboration with Special Olympics and Paralympics to commemorate the International Day for Persons with Disability.

#### Women leadership program

The objective of the Women leadership program is to equip women in sport with leadership and management skills. Ms. Matlho Kgosi and Ms. Tsosetso Magang from WASBO attended a Women Leadership and Sports for all Workshop in South Africa in March 2019, where they were equipped to train other women through a mentorship program in Botswana. We have 20 mentees undergoing four interface sessions with the trainers using the set leadership curriculum. After 8 months of completion of the theory aspect, participants will be attached to their sports bodies for the practical aspect of the mentorship program and graduate after 14 months. AUSC Region 5, TAFISA, and BNSC support the implementation process of this program.

#### INCUMBENT WASBO LEADERSHIP

1. Ms Matlho Kgosi – Chairperson
2. Dr. Shika Trivedi- Vice Chairperson
3. Ms Keenese Katisenge- Secretary General
4. Ms. Thulaganyo Rebatshabile- Marketing & PR
5. Ms. Gracious Seru- MYSC Rep
6. Mr. Lentswe Motsamai- Department of Gender Affairs



## VISION STATEMENT

Sport for all, for excellence and prosperity

## MISSION STATEMENT

To lead, develop and implement an innovative sport delivery system by promoting sport participation

## CORE VALUES

Botho  
Integrity  
Effective Communication  
Inclusiveness  
Excellence  
Discipline

## MOTTO

“Earn your stripes”



**BNSC**

*BOTSWANA NATIONAL SPORT COMMISSION*

 Botswana National Sport Commission

 weareBNSC

 [www.bnsc.co.bw](http://www.bnsc.co.bw)

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