



BNSC NEWS

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 6

BNSC- CEO'S ROADMAP

Page 4

BNSC GYM

- Lowest Prices
- Free Instructors

Page 16



TUELO DANIEL SERUFHO

Inside Issues:

MENTAL HEALTH
MENTAL HEALTH
ON ATHLETES -
DR. TSHUBE

TOKYO OLYMPICS



UNITED FOR BW SPORT
UNITED FOR BW SPORT



EDITOR

Tshegofatso Jeremiah
Marketing & Communications Officer

Once again a warm welcome to our 6th edition of our BNSC News Newsletter. It is unfortunate as we all are aware that we are still battling with the horrid COVID-19 pandemic. But as the saying goes, “what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger”, we are soldiering on and learning ways to survive. Adhering to COVID-19 regulations, some of our Sport codes have since reopened. It looks like we are in this for the long run, but eventually we shall defeat this.

Amidst all this, it gives me great pleasure to introduce our new Chief Executive Officer Mr Tuelo Daniel Serufho. Mr Serufho is not new to Sport and definitely not to Botswana National Sport Commission(BNSC) as he was once one of us, “welcome back home Sir”. We are looking forward to a bright future both for the BNSC and for Sport in Botswana. In this edition, Karabo Kwadibana sits with the new Chief to learn more about his aspirations.

This also addresses the issue of mental health in Athletes which seems to be over looked, but is a growing factor amongst our athletes. Our Specialist Dr Tshepang Tshube breaks it down for us.

Tokyo 2020 Olympics came and went, Botswana did well as the Mens 4x4 relay team worn Bronze. All the athletes did their best to fly the Botswana flag high.

We look forward to better days, for the pandemic to ease so sport can be fully opened. Our facilities are in good shape as we wait for activities, our Gymnasium is fully operational and our grounds are ready for action. Hope you enjoy our latest edition, looking forward to many more issues.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's note	2
CEO's Interview.....	4
Business Development Department (BDD).....	6
Mental Health	8
United For BWSport.....	9
Side Note to Team Botswana Tokyo2020.....	12
Heroes Sport Mentorship Programme.....	13
Women And Sport Botswana	14
Audit Department.....	15
BNSC Gym.....	16
Botswana Tennis Association- Davis Cup	17
Botswana Cricket Association- Updates	18
Botswana Football Association- Updates	19
Tribute to BNSC Heroes	20
Safety Moment	21

CORE VALUES

- Botho
- Integrity
- Inclusiveness
- Excellence
- Discipline

VISION

Sport for All, for Excellence and Prosperity

MISSION STATEMENT

We exist to lead, develop and implement an innovative sport delivery system by promoting sport participation and excellence.

EDITORS

Modiri Ontitile
Tshegofatso Jeremiah

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

- Karabo Kwadibana
- Dimphe Dintwe
- Gaone Ntshutelang

PHOTOS

Karabo Kwadibana
BNSC archives
BNOG

DESIGNER

Kelvin Boloko

Motto: **“EARN YOUR STRIPES”**

CEO's INTERVIEW

BY KARABO KWADIBANA

For some, Sport may be part-time and seen as a leisure activity. However, for Tuelo Daniel Serufho (TDS), it is his life, and after an engaging intense and thrilling interview, I am confident to say, he lives and breathes Sport! Stick with us as we get in-depth and draw insight from the BNSC CEO, on his roadmap for Botswana Sport. Sir it's an honor to be interviewing you,

KK: Who is Tuelo Daniel Serufho?

TDS: I was born in Francistown, grew up in Selebi Phikwe and of course at present day live in Gaborone. I am a man of many talents, I was quite a good artist, I could paint and draw. I have also been involved in sport in my early days and tried out different sports ultimately settling for Tennis. I have also had a hand at Disk Jockey (DJ) amongst other things (laughing). But of course I am a sport administrator more than anything else. I grew up a bit of a naughty child, and I think it is because my other siblings were older than I was, and therefore, had already left for boarding school. Plus, I was the only boy child of the family and I had a close relationship with my mother, therefore, I could get away with almost anything. Touching on the naughty side, I used to bunk classes to go play tennis, I would jump over the school fence, walk through the bush to get to the tennis court, which was about 2/3km away from school. For some reason I found it a bit strange for me to attend Setswana classes, because I spoke Setswana so well, therefore I did not see the point of attending Setswana classes. Of course, this is by no means an encouragement to bunk classes. As I mentioned earlier, I was quite a good artist; always torn between Art and Sport. I was able to win some art competitions in Phikwe, Mmadinare and Bobonong region, and at National level. But in terms of Sport, I used to run Marathons. My mother would just register me into Marathons even without my consent, and she would just tell me, I have registered you for a Marathon it is in four weeks, please prepare. I participated in three (3) marathons back then. I also loved academics, as I would score A's and B's, nonetheless my love was Sport.

KK: What does your typical day look like?

TDS: I am a father to some young boys and they are very much an integral part of my day. I am up early in the morning at around 5:00am, go through my emails and leave home to drop one of the boys at school and come to the office until lunchtime, where I would go pick up the young boy, after lunch I attend meetings (Virtual & Physical). I play golf twice a week (Wednesdays and Sundays). However, besides the family commitment my typical day is just a series of meetings, if I am not in a meeting, I am at an event for example send-off ceremonies, Ministry engagements or stakeholder events. My day ends at about 9-9:30pm.



KK: Mr Serufho, you have over a year with the BNSC as Caretaker CEO, how would describe the journey?

TDS: It is quite interesting, as you might be aware I was part of the BNSC in the past then I left to join the BNOC. I am back here now, and the culture is obviously different from BNOC, it is also different from back then when I was here. Rightfully so because culture is not stagnant. It evolves with time, so I found the culture in the organization particularly interesting. There are many good things about the culture, but there is always room for improvement to make the Organization even better. I immensely enjoy working with colleagues here at the Commission, I believe in their potential and I trust that with the right type of support from me, we can take this organization to greater heights. Obviously, this is a more political organization compared to where I was before. Here there is close proximity to the leadership at MYSC or the political leadership of the country. There is more direct engagement between the Government and the Commission than at the BNOC, therefore there is need for change of approach on my part in order to navigate the political waters. I believe BW Sport can do better than how we have performed, over the last 20 years or so.

KK: They say change is inevitable, how do you intend to effect change in the BNSC without losing Secretariat staff and NSA's confidence?

TDS: I am going to make the Secretariat and the National Sport Associations a part of the change process, I would not want to imagine the change on my own and want to effect the change on my own because if I attempt to do it is not going to work. The most important thing is to get people to understand things from your point of view in order to share your vision, and when they do, they are able to move in the direction you would like to take Botswana Sport. Therefore, I would like to get all stakeholders to buy into the vision and be a part of the change process.

KK: The public, athletes and the media continue to criticize the BNSC on athletes' welfare and for not treating NSA's equally, in that some NSA's are more favored yet with no results. How do you plan to improve the issue of athletes' welfare?

TDS: Firstly, educating the public on the development of an athlete, as there is no consistent understanding on the development of an athlete, how an athlete can be developed to be successful, and the level of competition at the various events in individual sport. It is important that we educate Batswana to understand a lot of these things. I am one leader who appreciates criticism, trust me I go through all those comments on social media one by one and engage them to try and make them understand.

Of course, they will not stop criticizing us, but they would be criticizing us from a more informed position. Issues of favoritism, there has not been favoritism that happened in the past. There is just limited understanding of how our systems work, why maybe we are putting resources in certain areas as opposed to others. I will give you an example, whether we like it or not, Football is the biggest sport in the world, never mind how you want to look at it. It could even be bigger than the Olympics in terms of popularity etc, looking at the number of people who watch the World Cup and the Olympic games, they are more or less at par. Nevertheless, football is the biggest single sport where people watch it from across the world, that is a fact we can never run away from. But of course that's inconsequential for now, I mean name any sport right now that has more professional athletes than football, name any sport that on average pays professional athletes better than football, these are just two examples. Even here at home, how many professional Volleyball athletes do we have, Judo, Table Tennis, Basketball the number of professional athletes we have in the country. So you would find it that football has more professional athletes compared to all the NSAs combined. In addition, when you look at the ability of an NSA to bring revenue to our economy through Sport, its football. It is like that in many countries around the world.

Yes in India, Cricket performs better than football, yes in Jamaica athletics may be performing better than football. However, for 90 plus percentage countries across the world football is the biggest sport. Lastly, it is easy to play football and maybe Netball or Volleyball, it is easy for a child in Molembo, Kachikau or Malatsau to play football because all they need is just a piece of land and bricks. However, for other sports, it is quite hard, I mean you cannot play Swimming (as an example) in remote areas, therefore when you are putting resources in Football, you are creating an opportunity for kids across to participate the Sport. So, there is a whole host of dynamics we look into. Further, this a fact we can't ignore, Athletics is the best performing sport in the country, that is why we have taken a conscious decision to put a premium on athletics from a funding, resourcing and human perspective. We have started with this current financial year funding and we will be providing capacity. We are also going to provide support to our other four high impact NSAs, so we are now biased towards our high impact NSAs.

In addition, they will now benefit more than our low impact NSAs from our indirect funding and programs. Of course, we will continue to support the rest of NSAs but obviously to varying degree. Hence the need to educate the public and NSAs about these dynamics. Just to add to that, we have started informal engagements with NSAs to try and educate them on what we plan to do, also to cite as an example the Categorization of NSA, we shared with them the process, the score card, gave them an opportunity to contest the marks they might have scored. And we will continue engaging them.

KK: What is the progress on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Botswana National Sport Commission(BNSC) and the Botswana National Olympic Committee(BNOC), and how do you think it will benefit sport?

TDS: We have made a significant progress; we meet on a regular basis as the BNOC and the BNSC to update on progress. We have set up teams that are working on our agreements, at these meetings they report progress, challenges and try to find solutions together. We would have been closing agreements around this period; however, there is a slight delay because the Ministry has confirmed their choice of structure for BW Sport. The idea is to start implementing the structure, obviously after consulting all stakeholders. As an example, the idea was to merge some of our structures especially the sport development, at this point, terms of reference are ready, we could be dissolving the structure now, however we have decided to halt the decision until MYSC has made a decision. Unfortunately, due to COVID, many of the projects we have agreed to work on together are currently on halt. Both organizations are adopting each other's stakeholder engagement programs. We have also jointly developed a long-term athlete development program, that we will soon be implementing. Furthermore, we are just about to complete a standardized membership requirement for the BNSC and BNOC. One initiative to mention that we are jointly working on is the ongoing United for Botswana Sport Campaign.

KK: What major difference do you find between leading the two organizations? BNSC and BNOC?

TDS: Obviously, because of the mandate, the BNOC is outward looking because of its International affiliation, as for the Commission we are inward looking because of the mandate. The BNOC is more high performance led whereas we (BNSC) are more on grassroots development. On the side of the BNOC, they are more concerned with outcomes than the process per se whereas this side, the greatest emphasis is more on process than it is on outcome, But we need both. Further, the BNSC is more government approach based whilst the BNOC gravitates towards the private sector approach to issues, of course not overlooking many of the things that both organization can learn from each other.

KK: You have come a long way with sport, what is the end game, what legacy would you like to leave behind?

TDS: The goal is to make our athletes to be serious contenders who win world championships. I would like to leave Botswana consistently winning world championships especially our high impact sport, for example athletics and boxing. Secondly I would like sport to have been professionalized, by that I mean sport operating as a business and certainly not losing sight of the primary goal being sport development. I also would like to see sport extracting as much value in the facilities through aligning with the private sector. To help sport become less dependent on the government by creating its own revenue. Thirdly, I would like Botswana to have a long term hosting strategy and consequently being able to host huge International sport competitions that will improve Sport Tourism. Finally, to have assisted Botswana athletes to play in high professional leagues abroad for example, the European leagues.

KK: What are the three top things you would like to achieve in the first year as the BNSC CEO? Do you have any targets you have set for yourself in your first year in office?

TDS:

- Restructuring of Botswana Sport for efficiency and improvement of sport.
- Restructuring of National Associations through spreading resources and aligning our programs.
- Long-term athlete and coach development framework implementation
- Governance- we need to address governance here at the Commission and at our NSAs in order to restore trust from the government and the private sector.

KK: Thank you for making time and best of luck in your journey Sir.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

BY DIMPHO DINTWE

The Business Development Department is mostly tasked with generating income for the Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC), had it hard in the last quarter since the world was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The department manages the BNSC facilities with the intention of raising funds for the Commission with such facilities;

FACILITY	TYPE	AREA
National Stadium	Stadium	Gaborone
Obed Itani Chilume Stadium	Stadium	Francistown
Lobatse Sports Complex	Stadium	Lobatse
Molepolole Sports Complex	Stadium	Molepolole
Maun Sports Complex	Stadium	Maun
Serowe Sport Complex	Stadium	Serowe
Warm Up Area	Conference Room	National Stadium, Gaborone
Athletes Village	Accommodation	Block 9, Gaborone
BNSC Gym	Fitness Centre	National Stadium, Gaborone
VIP Lounge	Entertainment	National Stadium, Gaborone

The different stadia are homes to Botswana Football League Teams. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19, sports activities came to a halt until further notice which meant no income for BNSC from proceeds of the Football games. The Stadia also hosts many events from music Festivals to Family fun days which were also suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The stadia have been white elephants since Corona Virus outbreak resulting in BNSC not making any money from these facilities.

Most of the BNSC facilities are utilised by the National Sport Associations whose most activities are suspended until further notice. They, NSAs, just like BNSC are not able to generate any income hence they are not able to host any events, meetings or conferences at any of the BNSC facilities.

The only two (2) facilities able to generate a little income for the Commission are the Athletes Village (which is currently the home of Team Tokyo 2020) and the BNSC Gym. Despite its ability to generate income, the BNSC Gym has seen a drastic drop in numbers of membership and entire sales. The Gym reported a few positive cases of the COVID-19 hence the decrease in membership. Another assumption is that some people feel safe staying at home and not coming to the Gym which might also be a contributor to the decrease.



National Stadium VIP Bar Section

STADIA

Post COVID-19 pandemic, the below facilities are available for bookings;



National Stadium

ATHLETES VILLAGE

The Athletes Village has 16 units; eight (8) being two (2) bedroomed apartments and another eight (8) being one (1) bedroom apartments. All rooms have a lounge, kitchen and bathroom. The Athletes Village is well equipped with free Wi-Fi and DSTV. The rates of the rooms are as follows;

- 2 bedroom apartments – P450.00 per night
- 1 bedroom apartments – P300.00 per night



Athletes Village

For bookings of the above facilities, please contact the following people;

FACILITIES	CONTACT PERSON	CONTACT NUMBERS
National Stadium Warm Up Area VIP Lounge BNSC Gym	Dimpho Dintwe	3674067/75084785 ddintwe@bnscc.co.bw
Obed Itani Cilume Maun Sports Complex Serowe Sports Complex	Karabo Kwadibana	3674031/74024170 kkwadibana@bnscc.co.bw
Lobatse Sports Complex Molepolole Sports Complex	Gaone Ntshutelang	3674144/74218623 gntshutelang@bnscc.co.bw
Athletes Village	Omponye Molefhe	3901881/77527604 omolefhe@bnscc.co.bw

The Business Development also handles the marketing and communications matters of the Commission. These include but are not limited to branding, advertising, social media, media relations, printing and publications. The BDD are the custodians of the BNSC logo; they aim to protect and maintain the image of the Commission at all times.



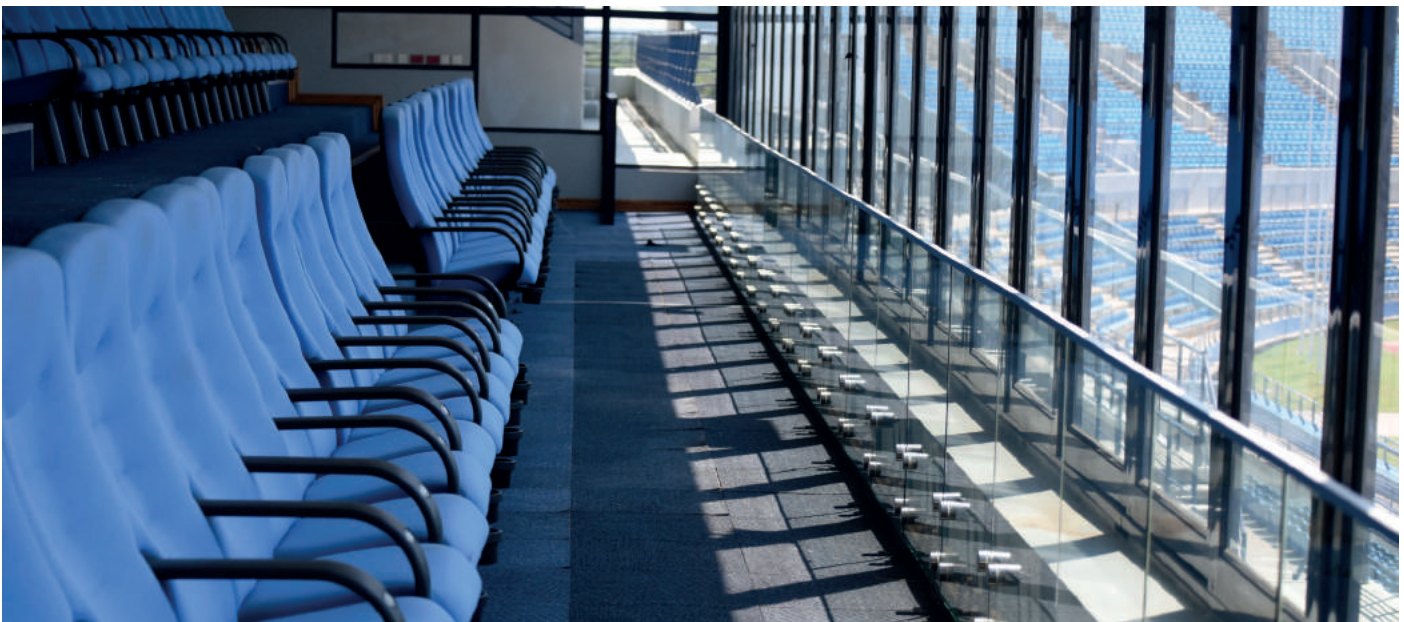
Obed Itani Chilume Stadium



Lobatse Sports Complex



Molepolole Sports Complex



Obed Itani Chilume Stadium VIP lounge



Dr. Tshepang Tshube
Senior Lecturer, Sport & Exercise Psychology
Department of Sport Science
Faculty of Education
University of Botswana

In recent years, there has been an acknowledgement coupled with global concern over mental health symptoms and disorders in elite sport. Naomi Osaka-the first Asian tennis player ranked No. 1 by the Women's Tennis Association and first Japanese-born player to win a grand slam is one of the most recent elite athletes to reveal her mental health struggles. The global increase in mental health cases amongst elite athletes and the entire sport community prompted the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to convene a team of global experts at its head office in Lausanne, Switzerland. The meeting was held from 12 to 14th November 2018 with two primary objectives. The first objective was to review and present scientific literature addressing mental health symptoms and disorders amongst elite athletes. The second objective was to issue the IOC mental health consensus statement.

One of the major observations from the IOC statement and research is that the sport social environment exposes elite athletes to mental health symptoms and disorders. It is therefore, important for sport federations and other stakeholders to formulate evidence-based policies to protect elite athletes from mental health symptoms and disorders. African governments spend less than 1% of their annual budget on mental health and most of them do not have policies on mental health. Lack of funding on mental health, particularly in sport has worsened mental health struggles that athletes face. Key contributing factors to elite athlete's susceptibility to mental health symptoms and disorders include social media scrutiny, harassment and abuse, intersections between injury impact and performance, and elite athlete's retirement transition. Harassment and abuse include physical assault, psychological and sexual abuse.

Research provides evidence that the number of stressors in elite sport increase the likelihood of injuries or illness. The psychological risk factors associated with mental health symptoms include anxiety/worry, poor performance, lack of coping skills, and poor body image. It is therefore important for athletes and all stakeholders to reduce athlete's susceptibility to stress and athletes' injuries. Competitive trait anxiety coupled with other psychosocial factors such as cognitive worry and other life stressors have the ability to predict athletic injury occurrence and stress. Elite athletes training should reduce chances of injury but focus on building athlete's confidence, set proper goals, and avoid premature return to sport. Actually, a huge number of athletes prematurely return to sport and get injured again.

Studies provide evidence that up to 45% of retired elite athletes experience mental health symptoms and disorders ranging from adverse alcohol use to depression. Involuntary retirement from sport is especially associated with an increased risk of mental health symptoms and disorders. It is therefore important to consider retirement interventions, dual-career, and athletes support services.

UNITED FOR BWSPORTS CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

BY GAONE NTSHUTELANG

The Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) in partnership with the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOc) collaborated with Tsa Gae Investment, a local company popularly known as “All Kasi Clothing” to produce a masterpiece T-shirt, used as a fundraiser for Team Botswana bound for Tokyo 2020. The replica was revealed on the 18th March 2021 at an event that was graced by the Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development (MYSC), Honorable Tumiso Rakgare, and other dignitaries from Sport and the private sector. The Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) who manages the #PushaBw campaign attended the event and emphasized their support towards the campaign. The t-shirts will be distributed and sold by JB countrywide.



BNSC Board Chairperson- Mr Marumo Morule, giving closing remarks



Hon Tumiso Rakgare(MYSC) and Bane Maplanka - Managing Director All Kasi Clothing launching the replica

The funds generated from the sales of the t-shirts will be used by Team Botswana for preparations for the Olympics. Currently, the t-shirt is being promoted by His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi and the First Lady- Mrs Neo Masisi, as well as Honorable Tumiso M. Rakgare, by encouraging the nation to wear the campaign jerseys on Fridays, with the theme “Blue Fridays”.

United for BWSports is a campaign that aims to get the whole nation to rally behind Team BW as they prepare for Tokyo 2020 Olympics to be held from 23 July to 8 August 2021. Speaking at the unveiling ceremony, Mr. Mokaedi Maplanka, the Managing Director of All Kasi Clothing said that the thought behind the campaign was to bring the Nation together through Sport during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. He further alluded that Sport is one of the sectors most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic hence they conceptualized a campaign where they would revive the love of sport by bringing leaders, corporates, supporters and sponsors, together to support the initiative through “Blue Fridays”. The following companies came together in support of the initiative as sponsors, Botswana Investment Trade Centre (BITC), Avani Gaborone Resort and Casino, Nashua, ViB Mobile, and Media House 1957 for the success of the event.



BNOc President- Col Botsang Tshenyego (left), All Kasi Clothing Managing Director -Bane Maplanka(Second left) and sponsors



Hon Tumiso Rakgare giving key note address

TEAM BOTSWANA IN ACTION - TOKYO OLYMPICS



TEAM BOTSWANA IN ACTION - TOKYO OLYMPICS





Men's 4x400M Relay Team, Bayopi Ndori(Left), Zibane Ngozi(Second left), Baboloki Thebe, Issack Makwala(right) receiving the bronze medals on the podium.

“Who is his coach? Was he fatigued? The BNSC and the BNOC are failing our athletes. Did they only go to the Olympics to add the numbers as opposed to competing?” These are some of the comments that made rounds in the social media platforms. Often, when someone ‘fails’ during a competition, if at all there is such a thing in this context, the first thing the public and even the media are quick to do is critique the athlete or coach, find an organization or someone to blame. Of course, this may not be all of us but most of us. However, such a habit normally results in being oblivious and blind to the hardships, the sweat, anxiety, pressure, sleepless nights that an athlete had to endure to compete at a platform of that magnitude. Imagine yourself in your area of expertise contesting against the best of the best in a competition of such caliber.

Yes, it is a given, the National Sport Associations (NSAs), Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC), and the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) should account for our performance at the Olympics. However, it should not be at the expense of the athletes. They did their best to represent the country and even better, they brought a bronze medal from the Tokyo2020 Olympics. Besides the medal, they brought excitement, jubilation and gave Botswana something to celebrate during the pandemic. One of the beautiful moments to reminisce on is seeing the likes of Magdeline Moyengwa Weightlifting 59kg, Keamogetse Sadi Kenosi (Boxing), Rajab Otukile Mahommed (Boxing), James Freeman (Swimming), Galefele Moroko (women's 400m athletics), Zibani Ngozi (400m) and, Bayopo Ndori (400m) making their debut at the Olympics and giving it their all. The 400m runner Leungo Scotch is also one of the athlete who made his first appearance and made it to the semi-final, a proud moment for the Maun native. Another special treat was seeing more of our female athletes joining Amantle Montsho, the first female athlete from Botswana to have competed at the Olympic Games, achieving the feat upon making her debut at the 2004 Games in Athens. This is a huge stride for the BNSC substructure, Women and Sport Botswana (WASBO). Unfortunately, due to an injury, Amantle Montsho was not able to finish the race.

Despite finishing 9th in the men's 800m final thus crushing the hopes of scooping a gold medal as per his tagline “#tatamilawoloto,” Nijel Amos (800m) demonstrated a sterling performance at the Olympics. Notwithstanding a podium finish, Amos made headlines after displaying great sportsmanship on a dramatic men's 800m semi-final, having been tripped by one of the contenders. He made his Olympic debut in the men's 800m at the 2012 Games and won the first Olympic medal (Silver) for Botswana, when he was just 18 years old.

Tokyo2020 Olympics may be Isaac ‘Badman’ Makwala's last appearance in the Olympics as an athlete, as he recently took to his social media Facebook page to unofficially announce a possible retirement. It has been quite a journey for Isaac ‘Badman’ Makwala. When taking it back to the 200m solo race (still get the chills watching that race) at IAAF that got him a richly deserved international recognition in World Athletics, not to mention the recent sterling performance in the Diamond League, a Commonwealth champion and an African champion. Overall, Makwala has had a great run at the Tokyo2020 Olympics despite finishing 8th in a tightly contested men's 400m final. He continued his great performance by leading the 4 X 400m men's relay team to a podium finish.

The Botswana men's 4x400m relay team comprising of Isaac ‘Badman’ Makwala, Baboloki Thebe, Bayopo Ndori and Zibane Ngozi; substitutes Leungo Scotch and Anthony Pesela set a new African Record. The team clocked 2:57.27, by extension a new National Record and, consequently winning a bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Such a brilliant performance also made it a win for Africa as this is the first 4*400m men's relay medal for Africa since 2004. Another memorabilia is the thrilling performance of Bayopo Ndori and Zibane Ngozi on their debut at the Olympics. Moreover, to the team behind, Coach Justice Dipeba, Assistant coach Dose Mosimanyane and Botswana Athletics Association congratulations and thank you. And to the medical team that ensured that Team Botswana is well taken care of, we salute you as well.

In overall, it was not so much of a great performance for Team Botswana but a performance worth celebrating. This is definitely a perfect time for the implementation of the much-needed Long-Term Athlete and Coach Development framework. The BNSC CEO- Mr Tuelo Daniel Serufho has revealed that the framework is almost ready with only a few minor details left to iron out before implementation. The Long-Term Athlete and Coach Development framework will certainly see a positive shift in Botswana Sport.

HEROES SPORT MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

BY THUTO MOLEBATSI

In August 2014, the Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) in conjunction with PCI Global Communities (an international non-governmental organisation), established a sports mentorship programme with the aim to provide support to elite athletes and sports coaches through social and corporate skills training. The programme, commonly known as 'Heroes', addresses core values which are found to be necessary in complementing the elite athletes' daily lives, as well as challenges faced by vulnerable children and youth, in sport.

Role to the Commission

Through the Heroes Sport Mentorship Programme, the Botswana National Sport Commission has attained a valuable increase of visibility as well as reaching out to the vulnerable groups, youth and upcoming athletes in different parts of the country. The Heroes programme has also collaborated with other BNSC projects in the likes of the Re Ba Bona Ha grassroots development program and Centre for Sports Excellence. Through this synergy, the trained mentors get to interact, share skills and give motivational talks to the targeted groups and upcoming athletes at respective centres. It is commonly known that Botswana elite athletes have some level of influence on the youth and communities of the country. The programme is therefore an ideal platform to address social youth ills as well as issues surrounding resilience to refuse or resist early sexual debut, alcohol and drug abuse. This is in line with the BNSC's strategic goals and its efforts in emphasizing the role of sport and its contribution to society.



BNSC Sport Development Officer-Thuto Molebatsi, delivering a presentation

Through the Heroes program, BNSC is also involved in the Coaching Boys Into Men (CIMB) programme, which serves as a guide for involving coaches and sports staff in combating domestic and sexual violence, as well as fostering healthy interpersonal relationships among boys and adolescent boys. Our Sports Development Manager-Technical, Mr Peaceful Seleka as well as the Heroes Desk Officer, Mr Thuto Molebatsi made presentations at the recently held CIMB workshops in Thamaga and Gaborone respectively. The two presented on 'Child protection in Sports' as well as 'Sports Excellence and Behavioural Change'. The workshops, funded by USAID and PCI Global Communities Botswana, were attended by 27 and 28 Coaches from the Thamaga and Gaborone regions respectively. More coaches' clinics are to be held in the coming months.



Group picture with attendees at the workshop

Success areas

Since its inception, the Heroes programme has enrolled over 25 (twenty-five) athletes and coaches annually, who have attended workshops and participated in sports educational as well as community-based (mentoring) activities. Notable elites under the program are the likes of Onkabetse Nkobolo (athletics), Thato Kago (Boxing), and Tracy Chaba (Volleyball) just to mention a few. The training workshops target but are not limited to the following topics; financial literacy, time management, confidence, public speaking, integrity and discipline.

Following the Covid-19 outbreak, like all other sporting activities, the programmes' activities were halted since they involve group gatherings. The programme coordinators (from both BNSC and PCI Global Communities) used the lockdown period to evaluate and revise the program guidelines and activities in preparing for 'the new normal'. This year, the program has registered an increased number of applicants (33) from respective National Sports Associations, showing a positive response and support from the programme's stakeholders.



Attendees at the workshop

Conclusion

We look forward to this year's program of activities, and we wish our Heroes the best of luck in their sporting season. FINO ALLA FINE!!!

WOMEN AND SPORT BOTSWANA

BY THULAGANYO RETSHABILE



Panelists: Moses Jones - Former Karate African champion(Left), Natasha Siku - Netball player, National team(center), Monica Alfred - Volleyball player(right) at 16 days of activism against GBV event

The Women And Sport Botswana(WASBO) was formed in 1997 as a substructure of the BNSC, its main objective was 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 7 Regional Structures.

Objectives of WASBO

- To increase the current level of participation by girls and women in sports
- To promote a healthy lifestyle;
- To promote community based participation in sport and recreation;
 - To establish a network among all women and stakeholders involved in sport for the purpose of resource sharing, exchange of ideas, skills and information;
- To promote education, mobilization of women in sport through better training and coaching techniques and administration.
- To work for the advancement of goodwill, unity, solidarity and peace of women in sport.

Activities

16 Days activism against GBV

WASBO Gaborone Region hosted a panel discussion on the first day of the 16 days of activism against GBV. The objectives of this event was to bring together former athletes in order to discuss issues relating to gender mainstreaming, female athletes' empowerment, sexual harassment and gender based violence.

Leadership & Empowerment Workshops

WASBO observed Women's History Month in March by hosting leadership and empowerment webinars with local and international facilitators. The Women's Month webinars were hosted in collaboration with the Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNO).

The first webinar, "A leadership and mentorship session," was facilitated by Mr. Kagiso Tlhase, a leadership and financial consultant, while the second webinar "Ways of Empowerment, Inspirational Workshop for Women" was facilitated by Dr. Linda Miller, a practicing business management consultant based in Canada.

Partnerships

WASBO established a partnership with Integrated Dreams, a non-profit Association based in Lisbon, Portugal, working for inclusion of people with disability in the sports industry. The mission of this collaboration is to increase participation of people with disability in the sports world, including women and girls. Integrated Dreams is committed to guaranteeing a quality training opportunity, helping each individual find their own path either through employment or development of an entrepreneurial project. The partnership adds on the work we've been doing with Mentorship for Excellence International and Special Olympics, in an effort to ensure inclusion of women and girls with disability in sport.

Through this partnership, a scholarship opportunity was presented to women with disability in sport across all codes for the 2021 Football For All Leadership Programme. The Football For All Leadership Programme is an international programme specifically designed to promote employability, entrepreneurship and networking of people with disability in the sports world. The Leadership Programme provides training in partnership with top Academic entities and sports organizations aimed at preparing each participant to work in the industry.



The Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) and its National Sport Associations (NSA's) faces a wide range of risks both internal and external to the organization which can have a significant impact on the achievement of its goals and objectives. The commission considers risk as a natural part of any business process and the management of risk as a key operating philosophy and an integral component of its activities.

As one of the many risk management processes employed, the board of Directors set up the Internal Audit Department. This is an independent function within the Commission that is not directly linked to the operations of the organization. It is concerned with evaluating and improving the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes in the commission and its national sport associations.

Core responsibilities

The vast majority of people have a vague notion of what Internal Auditors do. One of the top jokes about the department is that Internal Auditors are set on ruining reputations of people who do the real work, that they are fault finders, knit pickers and the corporate police of the organisation. This is far from the truth.

Internal Auditors work with management to systematically review systems and operations of the BNSC and its NSA's. These reviews are aimed at identifying how well risks are managed including whether the right processes are in place and whether agreed procedures are adhered to. Auditors also identify areas where efficiencies or innovations might be made.

In addition to core areas of financial control and Information Technology, Internal Auditors review the tangible aspects of operations such as the Commission's supply chain or IT systems; as well as more intangible aspects such as organizational culture and ethics. In fact, any system that has an impact on the effective operation of the Commission or its NSA's may be included in the internal Audit plan and scope.

Internal Audit reporting

To achieve its independence within the Commission and NSA's, Internal Audit reports functionally to the Board through the Finance and Audit Committee which is governed by a well-documented charter and administratively to the CEO. The composition of the committee include six(6) members, one(1) of whom is the Chairperson. On a quarterly basis, Internal Audit reports to the Audit Committee on business continuity, sustainability, accountability, compliance with best practice corporate governance and the Commission's policies and procedures.

Conclusion

I encourage all us to look at internal audit as a coach/business partner/peer and not a cop. Let us accord the Internal Audit Department the support it needs for the betterment of the Commission and National Sport Associations.

BNSC GYM

BY DIMPHO DINTWE



The BNSC Gym's main objective is to help you reach your health and fitness goals no matter how difficult they are through the assistance of our well trained instructors. Being one of the most well equipped and versatile gyms in Gaborone, the BNSC Gym employs only the best and prioritises its clients more than anything; something we take pride in. The gym is situated at the National Stadium giving its members an advantage of using the Athletics track and stadium stairs for some of their exercises. During this era of COVID-19, our members were urged to substitute cardio with the track and stairs. The gym comprises of 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 BNSC Gym has the best rates in town;

SUBSCRIPTION	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	P1 260.00
12 MONTHS CONTRACT (NO JOINING FEE, 1 MONTH FREE)	P2 400.00

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. We have plans of introducing a Boxing class.

DAY	CLASS	INSTRUCTOR
MONDAY	SPINNING	TEBOGO PULENYANE
TUESDAY	CHALLENGE	NICKY MOTLHANKA
WEDNESDAY	BOX STEP	KOKETSO LESOKWANE
THURSDAY	KICK AND JAB	THATO MOGOROSI
FRIDAY	STEP	THATO MOGOROSI



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

The BNSC Gym introduced a few rules and regulations post COVID-19 in an effort to help curb the spread of the virus.

- Face masks are mandatory; members are denied entry into the stadium if they do not have a mask. It is a requirement to wear a mask at all times; failure to comply, members will be removed from the premises.
- Sessions are limited to a maximum of 25 people, each individual permitted to train for one (1) hour only in the gym.
- Members are allowed only one (1) visit per day to the gym.
- Members are strongly advised to bring towels for gym, if not, they will not be allowed to enter.
- Members are urged to substitute cardio with the stadium track and stairs as much as possible.

The Gym Management plans to host an Aerobathon which will be held at the National Stadium on 22 October 2021 facilitated by the best instructors. Activities of the day will include but not limited to the following:

Functional Training

Box Step

High and Low

Kick Box

Taobo



2021 DAVIS CUP AFRICA ZONE GROUP IV

BY NONOFO OTHUSITSE - BTA PUBLIC RELATIONS



Team Botswana(Tennis) at Davis cup taurnament

Botswana recently sent a Team to compete at the 2021 Davis Cup Africa Zone Group IV tournament which ran from 21-26 June 2021. The tournament was hosted at the Complexe Sportif La Concorde in Brazzaville, Congo.

The youthful Botswana Team was led by Coach Petrus Molefe as Captain (Coach) and comprised of the following players: Thato Holmes (20), Tshepo Mosarwa (20), Tsholofelo Tsiang (19) and Denzel Seetso (16).

The following nine nations: Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Uganda joined Botswana in Group IV. The group was divided into two pools of five teams with Botswana in Pool A with Congo, Namibia, Angola and Uganda. Pool B included the following countries; Nigeria, Gabon, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire and Cameroon. Each pool winner proceeded to the play-offs to face the runner-up of the opposite pool to determine which two nations are promoted to Africa Group III in 2022.

Botswana reached the promotional playoffs having finished in 2nd position in Pool A after losing only one tie and winning 3. Unfortunately, the team lost the promotional tie against Cote d'Ivoire, 2 - 0 and finished on position 3 thus missing out on gaining promotion to Africa Group III.

The country last competed in the Africa Group IV in 2019 with a 6th place finish behind Gabon, Cameroon, Uganda, Rwanda and Ghana. Overall Results

Pool A [\[edit \]](#)

		NAM	BOT	ANG	UGA	CGO	RR W-L	Set W-L	Game W-L	Standings
1	Namibia		3-0	2-1	3-0	3-0	11-1	22-4 (85%)	148-60 (71%)	1
6	Botswana	0-3		3-0	3-0	3-0	9-3	19-8 (70%)	136-82 (60%)	2
10	Angola	1-2	0-3		2-1	3-0	6-7	14-12 (54%)	121-112 (52%)	3
4	Uganda	0-3	0-3	1-2		3-0	4-8	9-17 (35%)	96-122 (42%)	4
7	Congo	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3		0-12	1-24 (4%)	41-150 (21%)	5

Pool B [\[edit \]](#)

		CIV	NGR	CMR	SEN	GAB	RR W-L	Set W-L	Game W-L	Standings
8	Ivory Coast		3-0	2-1	3-0	2-1	10-2	21-5 (81%)	152-78 (66%)	1
2	Nigeria	0-3		2-1	3-0	3-0	8-4	18-10 (64%)	134-109 (55%)	2
3	Cameroon	1-2	1-2		2-1	3-0	7-5	17-12 (59%)	141-130 (52%)	3
9	Senegal	0-3	0-3	1-2		3-0	4-8	6-17 (32%)	99-122 (45%)	4
5	Gabon	1-2	0-3	0-3	0-3		1-11	2-22 (8%)	52-139 (27%)	5

History of Botswana at the Davis Cup

Botswana made her Davis Cup debut in 1996 at the 85th edition hosted in Nairobi, Kenya. Botswana competed in the Europe/ Africa Group III, Zone B consisting of a total of 14 countries divided into 2 groups. The team representing the country included Gavin Jetha, Thato Kgosimore and Michael Judd (RIP). After finishing in position 5 in Group B, Botswana was assigned to Group IV for the 1997 edition.

Botswana gained promotion to Group III at the 1999 Europe/Africa Zone B Davis Cup edition hosted in Accra, Ghana. The Botswana team that included Petrus Molefe, Thato Kgosimore and Michael Judd finished in second position behind Madagascar and ahead of Azerbaijan, San Marino and Uganda. Botswana competed in this group for 2 years, 2000 – 2002. Following relegation to Group IV in 2002, Botswana once again gained promotion back to Group III in 2005 in Uganda.

One of the highlights of Botswana in the Davis Cup was hosting the 2001 Davis Cup Europe/Africa Zone Group III – Zone A, Group B play offs at the National Centre in Gaborone from 16–20 May. The Botswana team included Thato Kgosimore, Petrus Molefe, Michael Judd (RIP) and Karabo Makgale.

Participating nations:

- Botswana
- Georgia
- Ghana
- Iceland
- Kenya
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Madagascar

The Botswana Team finished 5th after defeating Iceland 2-1 and Georgia 2-1. In the group stages, Botswana lost 1-2 to Ghana, Lithuania and Iceland. In the 5th-8th Play-offs, Botswana beat Georgia 2-1 and went on to beat Iceland 2-1 in the 5th-6th Play-offs. Team Botswana finished in position 5.

CRICKET IN TIMES OF COVID

BY FAZAL SHERIFF - BOTSWANA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

#KwibukaT20



Team Botswana for Kwibuka Women's T20 Tournament – June 2021 in Rwanda.

Cricket in Botswana was also hard hit by the COVID-19 Pandemic in March 2020 when we all went into various forms of lockdowns and curfews. All our activities stopped. It was only in September 2020 that we were able to commence training and the playing of intra-squad matches for the National Men's, Women's and Under 19 Boys Squads Only after obtaining approval for this from the Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC). We put together a COVID Protocol Document that follows the prevailing Government Regulations, BNSC Guidelines for Sports and the International Cricket Council (ICC) Guidelines for "Re- Booting Cricket" in times of the pandemic.

With the suspension of all School Sports, our Grassroots Development Programme also came to grinding halt in March 2020. We are eagerly awaiting to hear from Government as to when School Sports can recommence.

The key principle that we have adopted is the Safety of the Players, Officials and Staff are paramount and can not and will not be compromised whatsoever.

We have had continuous online dialogue with the BNSC, BNOC and the ICC throughout these difficult times and continue to do so. However, during these difficult times with competitive sports being suspended until recently, we undertook and completed the following infrastructure upgrading projects as the grounds were not being used for matches.

- Construction of three new turf wickets on Botswana Cricket Association(BCA) Oval "B" in Gaborone.
- Construction of three new practice turf wickets on BCA Oval in Gaborone.
- Installation of an Irrigation Pump and Power Supply at Lobatse Oval.
- Assistance with Installation of an Irrigation System at the Francistown Sport and Recreation Centre who are of our Affiliates



Women's Cricket National Team

More recently our National Women's Team participated in the Kwibuka Womens T20 Tournament in Kigali, Rwanda. Our performance was well below our expectations with the team losing all four round robin matches and hence not progressing to the knock out stages of the tournament. The team played against the hosts, Rwanda, Kenya, Namibia and Nigeria. This tournament was an ICC Sanctioned Tournament and thus counted towards our World Rankings. Prior to the tournament we were ranked 40th (ahead of Nigeria by 7 ranking points) and after the tournament we are still ranked 40th but only 2 ranking points ahead of Nigeria.

We are due to host the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier from the 31st August to 13th September 2021 in Gaborone. Thus, the tournament in Rwanda has been an "eye opener" for our players and coaches. The squad is due to recommence training on the 26th June 2021.

The National Men's Squad is in training for the following ICC Tournaments:

- 18th to 28th September 2021: - African Cricket Association(ACA) Men's T20 Africa Cup Finals in South Africa.
- 25th to 31st October 2021: - ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub-Regional Qualifier "B" in South Africa.
- 24th to 27th November 2021: - ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier in Nigeria.



New Turf Wickets on BCA Oval "B"



Women's Squad Practice Session on BCA Oval "B" Turf Wicket

**LET'S ALL FOLLOW THE RULES
AND
"HIT COVID FOR A SIX"**

BFL WELCOMES BFA's RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES

BY BFA



Senior National team (Zebras) at Obed Itani Chilome Stadium - AFCON Qualifiers 2021

The Botswana Football League (BFL) has amiably welcomed the Botswana Football Association (BFA) Return to Play guidelines, and further expressed approval in the Secretariat's phased roll out plan in making sure football safely returns to the pitch after a gloomy lull courtesy of COVID-19.

Addressing the media this afternoon (15 June 2021) at the Lekidi Football Centre in Gaborone, BFL Chairperson, Aryl Ralebala encouraged clubs to transition from being social, become professional and commercial, so they are in consonant with all club licensing guidelines.

Ralebala also used today's press conference as a fitting dais to usher in and formally introduce the newly appointed BFL Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Solomon Ramochotlhwane to the media.

"We have recruited our new CEO and we are confident of his skills. We have been able to adopt the licensing criteria for the league which we will use in our four-year turnaround, thus making sure we have a standardised financial, technical, and managerial aptitude for all the teams participating in the league. We want every team to submit their financial projections and obligations to make sure that all our clubs are run professionally. This will ensure that clubs are sustainable for the period of the season," said Ralebala. The BFL further assured the media that it is working around the clock to secure sponsors for the elite league.

This was emphasised by the BFL CEO, Ramochotlhwane who noted that the league will have a title sponsor as they are already in talks with potential sponsors.

He highlighted that by the end of July 2021, the league will unveil to the public and stakeholders, a tentative date of when the league will start including other partners.



Hon Tumiso Rakgare Obed Itani Chilome - Zebras AFCON qualifiers

"We have to relook and change the way we have been running football. At the current moment, and due to the covid-19 pandemic, we are going to negotiate hard on improved broadcasting rights and bring on board solid production partners that will be able to livestream the league matches to our valued fans. It has come to our attention that football fans are worried that without them at the stadia, clubs are likely to suffer financially. However, what I can stress is that for any commercial club or entity to survive, there must be multiple ways to generate income. Among these targeted income streams will be the livestreaming of our matches with various partners," said Ramochotlhwane.

Ramochotlhwane said being the man at the helm of the BFL, his tenure in office will be guided by three principles: compliance, value creation and strategic direction.

"Compliance is the starting point of any regulation and there should be stipulated guidelines, in our case teams should adhere to club licencing regulations and all the five-criterion agreed by the league shareholders. We are aware that this won't be an overnight achievement and in as much as we are going to be firm, we would also be reasonable to the clubs."



"The BFA has defined the return to play guidelines, and we are carrying them out as they are. We are also aware that players have been training on their own and we trust that clubs will bring programs that are fully monitored and in line with the health protocols," he added.

Ramochotlhwane added that the BFL will announce the commencement of the league in due course as the announcement on the return to play was just realised and therefore there is need to agree with other stakeholders.

"We are yet to announce the start of the league as we have just been given the green light by the Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC), relayed subsequently through our mother body, the BFA."

In these trying times and painful moments that we go through daily, we are reminded of our loved ones who departed and left voids in our hearts and families. Here we pay tribute and celebrate our former Colleagues who passed away untimely.

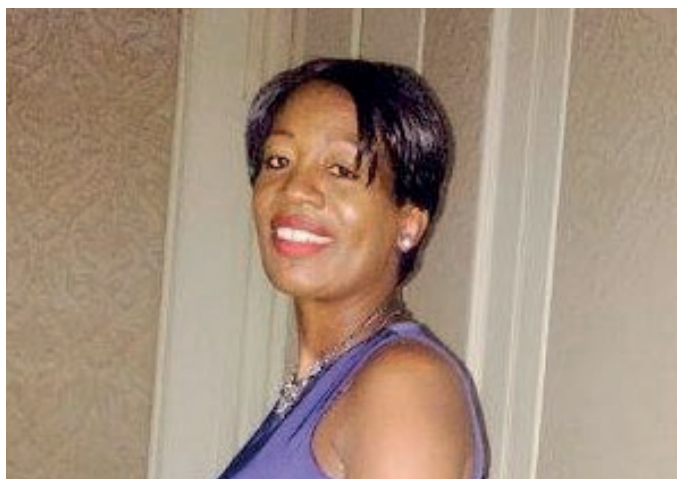
Mr. Samuel Rakgowa

Sam had a remarkably unique way of relating with people and colleagues. You introduce him to your friends or family, they suddenly warm up to his charm and kind-heartedness. His supervisors were always impressed by his commitment and diligence at work. Sam was employed with the then Botswana National Sports Council (BNSC) as an Assistant Driver, from 10th September 2007 until his passing on the 7th of November 2014. He was also known in the local football scene as a staunch and passionate supporter of the local Football Club Township Rollers (POPA) and the Senior National Football Team the Zebras. Sam could always be counted on to be in attendance of every game that his teams played and rallying behind them. As a top supporter who always encouraged other supporters to get in the spirit of the game despite the results, his presence in the stands and is deeply missed.



Ms. Kefilwe Ramphaleng

Kefilwe was an Employ of the BNSC for five years as a Sport Development Administration Officer. During her tenure with the BNSC, Kefilwe is described as a diligent worker who required minimal supervision in her duties. She was the first employee of the BNSC to accompany the National Team on some international trips due to her passion and dedication for her work. She had also been nominated to work in different committees such as the AUSC Region 5 as a General Team Manager and as a Secretary for the African Youth Championships. Kefilwe passed away on 17 January 2018 after a short illness.



Mr. Mission Mereyotlhe

"Mishoo" as he was fondly known, was described as a man rich in wisdom and a great mediator. "No matter how agitated one may be, when approaching Misho, he will swiftly calm you down and give guidance on how to resolve an issue". Mr. Mereyotlhe started his journey in sport as a Volleyball player back in the days, playing for Kalavango and eventually transcending to the National Team, until his retirement in 1994. According to those who knew him better, his conversations were always centered on what could be done better to promote Sport Development in Botswana. His amazing administrative career with the BNSC spans over two decades. He started working for the Botswana National Sport Council as it was known back then, in 1998 as a Sport Development Officer-Volleyball and ascended to the position of Sport Development Technical Manager, a role he held until his untimely passing on 16 December 2019.



Ms. Elsie Magadi Kenosi

Elsie's laugh was a beautiful thing; her laughter was full of warmth and life and invited people in. Some considered her very stern and firm, however those who have had the pleasure of spending time with her would label that as being passionate about her work. Before joining the Commission, Elsie was a passionate Softball player. Popularly known as the Left Pitcher in the Softball fraternity. She played for Bears Softball Club, the Diamonds Masters Softball Club and the Women's National Softball team. Her journey with the Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC) started in 2012 as a Sport Development Officer- Softball. In 2016, she was then appointed to the position of Sport Development Administration Manager. At the time of her passing, she was the Acting Director of Sport Development Admin.



The novel COVID-19 has not spared any country nor industry, if anything, it has robbed the sporting fraternity of one thing that is dear to many, the ability of fans and avid sports enthusiasts to congregate in stadiums in huge crowds to watch various sporting activities. The Fans are the backbone of any sporting activity, their flair, passion and support fuels excellence and allows for the monetization of games. The sporting fraternity in Botswana is trying by all means to navigate through lockdowns and curfews as the country is slowly opening up, this has not been an easy task as safety and health are primary conditions for athletic performance.

We have just witnessed the end of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics were Team Botswana showed its mettle against some of world's most talented and decorated stars, and brought home a Bronze medal. A true testament of the resolve and commitment of our sporting fraternity to continue raising Botswana's flag high even under the looming danger of the ever mutating Covid-19 Virus at Delta Stage. As we all watched the Tokyo Olympics, it was evident that safety was a priority, were the wearing of masks was quickly enforced as soon as athletes got off the stage. Not forgetting testing, application of sanitizers and social distancing to minimize the spread of the virus. Safety has come at huge cost as far as hosting an event of that magnitude is concerned, as it is not enough, the fact that fans and spectators were not allowed into stadiums was a clear indication that safety and health can never be compromised in the sporting fraternity.

More than anything, Botswana like many countries continues to struggle with the acquisition of vaccines, a vaccine rollout strategy has been issued and the vaccination drive is continuing. This has been an incredible sign that sooner than, later things could be back to normal and sporting activities shall resumes. However, we should note that vaccines are not a cure, but rather a mechanism that helps the body to defend itself easily and reduce fatalities as well as hospitalization. We still continue to appeal to our sporting fraternity to continue wearing masks, adhere to the Covid-19 regulations. Sporting codes that are suspended should remain so, continual sanitization, and minimal movement.

As we anticipate the arrival of more vaccines and the eminent resumption of all sporting fraternities, we pass our sincere condolences to all our fans, their families, our staff and the entire sporting community who have lost loved ones to this destructive pandemic. Stay safe, mask up, sanitize, we shall see each other soon and everything shall fall in place. Take care.



P.O. Box 1404
Gaborone
Tel:3674000
Fax:3901607
www.bnsc.co.bw



'Earn your stripes'



National Stadium
Plot 73289
P O Box 1404
Gaborone
Tel: 367 4000
Fax: 390 1607



@weareBNSC



Botswana National Sport Commission



sports@bnsco.co.bw



www.bnsco.co.bw



botswananationalsport