

# BOTSWANA EMBASSY NEWSLETTER

*Stockholm, Sweden*



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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the last edition of the financial year 2014/15 Botswana Embassy Newsletter in Stockholm, Sweden. It has been quite a busy quarter, beginning the year with presentation of Credentials by the Ambassador to two Presidents. This quarter the Botswana-Sweden Friendship Association had its Annual General Meeting and Mrs. Julia Majaha-Jartby was re-elected chairperson. During this AGM BOTSFA celebrated 31 years of existence.



## AMBASSADOR PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT OF POLAND



**Amb. Nthekele and H.E Bronisław Komorowski**

His Excellency, Lameck Nthekele presented his letters of Credence to the President of the Republic of Poland, His Excellency Bronisław Komorowski, on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2015, accrediting him as Botswana's Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary to Poland.

Whilst in Poland, the Ambassador had a meeting with the President of Polish information and Foreign Investment Agency, Mr. Stawomir Majman. They discussed ways in which the business sector of Botswana and Poland could engage one another. The Ambassador also met with Mr. Andrzej Arendarski, President of Polish Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce President highlighted a few sectors of the economy that has done well in terms of export growth and these included, the dairy industry, the medical and pharmaceutical industry as well as the engineering sector. In return the Ambassador informed the chamber that Botswana offered a lot in the diamond industry and the beef sectors. Therefore, beef from Botswana could be easily imported by distributors in Poland for consumption. In addition Botswana offered varied tourist attraction sites amongst which are UNESCO World Heritage sites such as Tsodilo hills and the Okavango Delta.

**PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT OF ESTONIA**



**Amb. Nthekela and His Excellency Toomas Ilves**



Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of the Republic of Estonia accepted H.E Mr. Lameck Nthekela Letters of Credence accrediting him as Botswana's Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary to Estonia. The ceremony was held on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

To kick start his official business, Ambassador Lameck Nthekela paid courtesy call to Chief of Protocol and the Director of Division for Asia, Africa, Australia and Latin America. The meeting acknowledged that cooperation between Botswana and Estonia is on a very small scale if not none.

The presentation meeting touched on issues of e-governance and e-society. Estonia is advanced in development of e-governance and e-society. President Ilves emphasized exchange visits between Botswana and Estonia to share experiences and ideas in the e-governance field as well as to consider supporting each other in developing science parks or innovation parks.



**Mr Indrek, Head of Export Advisors (Estonia Enterprise) with Amb. Nthekela**

While in Estonia the Ambassador had the opportunity to meet with Estonia Enterprise and the Director of Estonian Chamber of Commerce. Botswana continues to explore ways of developing establishments such as the Innovation Hub and the Diamond Park. In this case, Estonian companies could utilize Hubs in Botswana.

**VISIT BY THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY HON. VINCENT SERETSE**

The Minister of Trade and Industry Hon. Vincent Seretse attended a meeting with his Norwegian and Namibian counter-parts on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015.



**Minister of Trade of Namibia, Norway and Botswana**

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Norwegian Generalised System of Preference (GSP) and the Free Trade Area (FTA) Beef Quota Review. Botswana and Namibia export beef to Norway under the General Scheme of Preferences. Due to the upcoming trade negotiations commencing in May 2015, Botswana and Namibia deemed it necessary to engage their counterpart in Norway in order to get re-assurance for the market.

#### **PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CHOBE DISTRICT COUNCIL AND VÄNERSBORG MUNICIPALITY**

On 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2015, H.E Mr. Lameck Nthekela attended a meeting in Vänersborg, Sweden. The purpose of the meeting was to finalise the partnership agreement and Cooperation between Vänersborg Municipality (Sweden) and Chobe District Council (Botswana) 2013-2016. The delegation from Chobe District Council was led by the Council Chairperson Mr. Mwanota Kachane.

The aim of the Partnership is to develop cooperation, friendship and the exchange of experiences between the municipalities and their inhabitants. Both municipalities are working on a project entitled Social Inclusion and Equality. Its main aim is to focus on issues of disability, with a special focus on Chobe District Council's Kachikau Special Unit.

#### **PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GABORONE CITY COUNCIL AND VÄSTERÅS MUNICIPALITY**

H.E Mr. Lameck Nthekela attended a meeting in Västerås, Sweden on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The meeting discussed the progress of the Gaborone Transfer and Recycling Station (GTARS). This is a partnership project between Gaborone City Council and the City of Västerås (2013-2015) and their focus is on waste management projects. The delegation from Gaborone City Council was led by the Deputy Mayor Kagiso Tshekega. GTARS's aim is to reduce the amount of waste generate through re-cycling. It also intended to help reducing the overall distance to the landfill by the compactor refuse trucks thereby focusing more on increasing the frequency and predictability of collection.

Gaborone City Council is currently undertaking the "Waste Not" project that involves separation of waste at source. This project is to teach Gaborone residents a culture of separating waste in to streams, cutting the cost of disaggregating waste for the recycling purposes.



*From Left Mr. Mathe, Ms. Khwae, Ms. Sekgororoane, Amb. Nthekela, Ms. Lesole and Mr. Tshekega*

## EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN BOTSWANA AND FINLAND

Two Students from Botswana College of Agriculture paid a courtesy call on the Embassy. Laone Thungthung and Mompoloki Makwana are in a 5 months exchange program in Finland. The purpose of the exchange program is to expose students and enable them to share ideas and experience with their counter-parts. The exchange program encompasses modules in land - scape, bio-energy and forestry.



*Front line- Laone ThungThung and Modiegi Jarachara  
Back line- Amb Nthekela, Mompoloki Makwana and Kabo Lekuntwane*

# CONSULAR CORNER

## **VISA APPLICATION**

### **Compulsory**

Fully completed visa application form  
Certified copies of passport\*showing validity and photograph of bearer  
Covering letter from applicant  
Flight itinerary  
Bank statement  
The passport must have the validity period of six months  
Visa fee SEK 450

### **Tourist**

Tour plan  
Accommodation bookings  
Visitor  
Invitation letter from the host  
Sworn statement from the host  
Return visa or resident permit from the country of resident

### **Business**

Invitation letter from the host  
Business profile if coming to establish business  
Meeting schedule  
Labour clearance if coming for a month or more

### **Employment**

Waiver from department of Labour and Home Affairs  
Employment offer letter  
Copies of work and residence permit

# **BOTSTOCK IN PICTURES**



*H.E Lameck Nthekelela with Mr Marcus Björke from Young Champs*



*Minister of Trade Hon. V.T Seretse and Amb. Nthekelela*

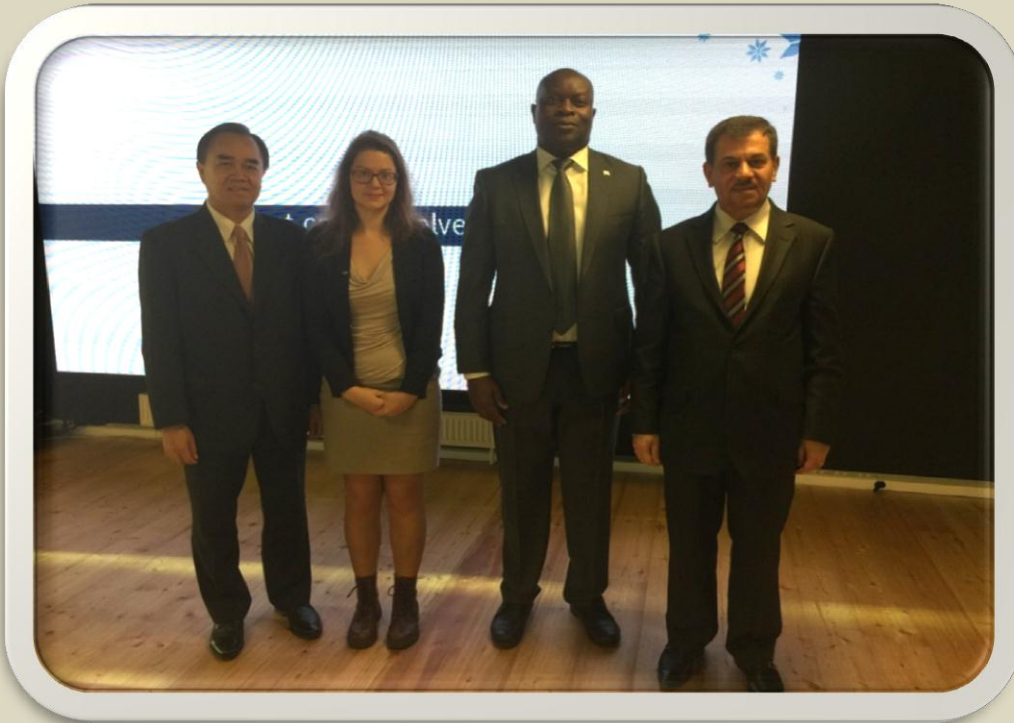




*H.E with a colleague during presentation of Credentials in Poland*



*Chobe District Council paying courtesy on the Embassy*



*Amb. Nthekela and his colleagues at e-Estonia show room*



*Amb. Nthekela and his colleagues during "Go Africa meeting in Poland"*



*Chobe District Council delegation leaving Vasteros*



*BOTSFA members during Annual General Meeting*



*Blue Congo Choir during BOTSFA Annual General Meeting*

# BOTSWANA CULTURE

Botswana culture is essentially what the country is known for today; peaceful, democratic, racial harmony, stable, humble and welcoming people and independent. While this represents the political culture, it has tended to seamlessly blend well with the social culture borrowed from all ethnic cultures to create a Botswana culture.

The culture of Botswana is prominent in the Setswana language, traditional music, local food, dance, traditional attire, rituals and other ceremonies like wedding celebrations.



## preserving culture through commemorations

The following are some of the festivals that are held every year to celebrate Botswana Culture:

- ❖ *'Letsatsi la Ngwao' Botswana Culture Day*
- ❖ President's Day
- ❖ Cultural Exhibitions and competitions
- ❖ Domboshaba
- ❖ **Son of the soil**



### **Preserving Botswana culture through institutions**

The preservation of Botswana Culture has been institutionalized through the establishment of the national museum and national archives bodies. The national museum and art in Gaborone collects and displays locally produced traditional crafts and paintings. It also has a botanical garden to preserve plants and trees that are indigenous to Botswana.



The national museum and art gallery also commemorates culture annually through basket exhibitions as a way of preserving culture. The best baskets in the country go on within the museum with the public invited to view the exquisite products.

## ***BOTSWANA TRADITIONAL FOOD***



Seswaa



Dikgobe

**Seswaa** is a very popular traditional meat dish made for most special occasions. It is usually prepared by men in a three-legged iron pot, simmered until soft, with only salt and water.

**Porridge** (bogobe) is made by putting sorghum, maize or millet flour into boiling water, stirring into a soft paste and then cooking it slowly. Sometimes the sorghum or maize is fermented and milk and sugar added. This dish is called ting. Without the milk and sugar, ting is sometimes eaten with meat or vegetables as lunch or dinner. Another way of making bogobe is to add sour milk and a cooking melon (lerotse).

**Dikgobe** is a mixture of beans cooked with maize or sorghum or *samp* (processed maize). Other ingredients are salt, a bit of fat or oil. It can be taken with fresh milk or meat dishes.

*Proud, strong-willed and resourceful, the people of Botswana are certainly the life and soul of their country*

