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HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA DR MOKGWEETSI MASISI, DONATES TO BUAN

On 20th February 2020, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana, donated two Brahman heifers to the University, which he had received as a gift from the Botswana Beef Association. The President felt that the two heifers would be of value to the nation if in the hands of BUAN. He urged BUAN to conduct research and multiply them.



EDITOR'S NOTE



Ms Onkgopotse Moreri

This newsletter begins our 2020 hype and trust that you will enjoy the read!

One of the most exciting stories, is that of welcoming Dr. Jasper Rees as the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources(BUAN)'s first Vice Chancellor. This is one of those long awaited moments of our transformation journey. Since its inception, the University has operated under the leadership of acting Vice Chancellors, who by the way have done a spectacular job, and deserve to be applauded for their valuable contribution and leadership during their terms in office.

The institution also extends its gratitude to its alumni and fully recognise their invaluable contributions in making sure that BUAN is fairly and broadly represented in a wide range of their accomplishments. Together we build our nation through agricultural production and preservation of our natural resources.

Enjoy the read!

EDITING TEAM



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BUAN
BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

VICE CHANCELLOR

APPOINTMENT

Dr Jasper Rees

Dr Jasper Rees obtained his Bachelors and Doctoral Degrees at Oxford University in the United Kingdom, and then spent four years as a postdoctoral fellow in San Diego and Boston in the USA. After a further five years as a Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow at Oxford University, he moved to The University of the Western Cape in Cape Town, as the Professor of Biochemistry in 1995. During the following 15 years, he played an important role in building one of the largest Biotechnology Departments in South Africa.

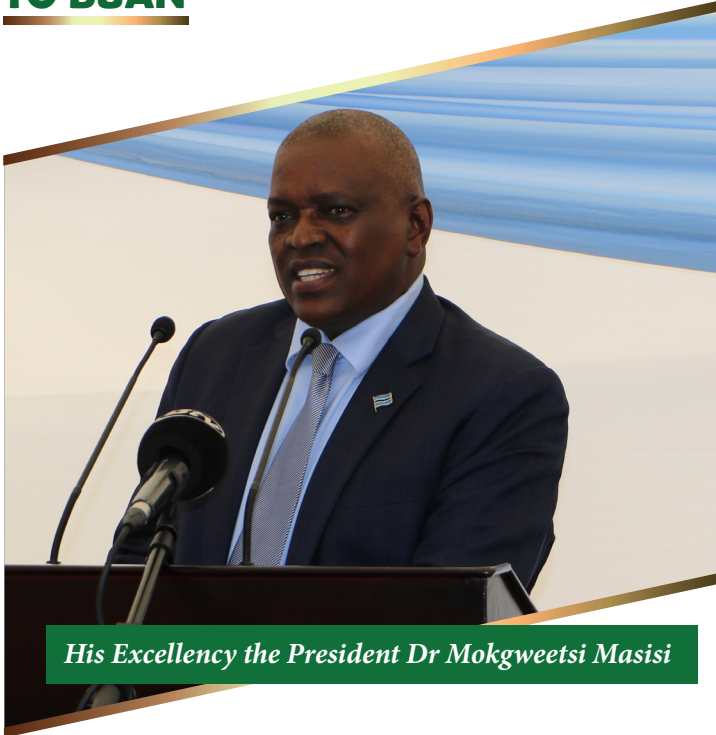
In 2010 Dr Rees moved to the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in Pretoria, as the Head of the ARC Biotechnology Platform, where he was responsible for the establishment of advanced facilities for genomics and bioinformatics, and their application in plant genomics and molecular pathology on wheat, sorghum, maize, apples, sweet potato and cassava. In 2014 he was appointed as the Group Executive for Research and Innovation Systems at the ARC, where he was responsible for a set of cross-cutting research areas including biotechnology, engineering, natural resource management and informatics.

Dr Rees has joined the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) as its first Vice Chancellor, at a time of transformation of the institution into a fully configured University. The mandate of the University is now to develop and broaden its focus to cover agriculture and the natural resources environment, and this will provide the basis for the development of the Bio-economy, where the emphasis will be.



Vice Chancellor's first tour of the campus

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA DR MOKGWEETSI MASISI DONATES TO BUAN



His Excellency the President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi

On 20th February 2020, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana, donated two Brahman heifers to the university, which he had received as a gift from the Botswana Beef Association. The President felt that the two heifers would be of value to the nation if in the hands of BUAN. He urged BUAN to conduct research and multiply them.

In his speech His Excellency said that his administration intended to revitalise the agricultural sector. Therefore, the Government is budgeting to support BUAN’s efforts towards modernising and transforming farming and is committed on a transition from a resource-based to a knowledge-based economy. Despite encountering numerous challenges such as severe drought, Dr Masisi applauded farmers for staying defiant and achieving positives despite the odds. He furthermore, urged farmers to transform the skills level and engage in research that would go a long way in growing the beef sector and agriculture in general. He encouraged them to be solution providers in agricultural sectors at international level.

In thanking the President for the heifers, BUAN Vice Chancellor, Dr Jasper Rees also indicated that BUAN was undergoing transition with the view of turning into a world class research intensive university in collaboration with other concerned parties in the agricultural sector.



BUAN Vice Chancellor Dr Jasper Rees

“The donation of heifers that we just received from President Dr Masisi is far beyond everyone’s expectation. We will give them names, we will give them babies,” said Dr Rees. He said Botswana was blessed with livestock production and as such BUAN would use the available technology to grow the sector. Amongst those who were witnessing the handing over of the gift was the Honourable Minister of Agricultural Development and Food Security, Dr Edwin Dikoloti. He said the donation was made possible by a conducive environment resulting from a consultative government and it was worth noting that despite challenges, the farming community had found it worthy to appreciate efforts made by government in developing the sector.



Honourable Minister of Agricultural Development and Food Security, Dr Edwin Dikoloti.



Different Stakeholders witnessing the handover



Donated Heifers

CHANGE AT BUAN!



Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources has now reached its final stages of transformation and is now moving on to the expansion stage, henceforth, the University will experience a lot of change. Change Management is required for smooth sailing during the process.

"What is Change Management?", one may ask. It is the process, tools and techniques used to manage the people, with intent to instill change and achieve the required business results. To transform from a College of Agriculture to "A vibrant world class University of Agriculture and Natural Resources", the University will have to follow the appropriate procedures to reach the desired goals.

As part of the initiatives to attain such, BUAN staff came together on the 17th January and 13th March 2020 and committed to the upholding and living the institutional Values. The University considers values to be the DNA of any organisation. The Institution highly believes that values must be infused in the organisational culture and must be lived daily by all in order, for the organization to achieve its goals. The values are;

- Accountability
- Customer Centric
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Innovation
- Team Work

ACE IIT

In pursuit to upholding the University values, staff members will be wearing their value t-shirts every Friday to celebrate the values.

PROGRESS ON PROPOSED ACADEMIC FACILITIES AND STUDENT ACCOMODATION

Growth is vital in the process of transformation as it adds value to the whole process. Over the years we have seen Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources go through drastic changes in effort to become a World-Class University. Below are images of progress on the new science laboratories, lecture theatres, late night study and student hostels that the University has started working on.



Academic Facilities



Student Hostels



Contractors working hard to ensure that they adhere to project timelines

DEPARTMENTAL FEATURE - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Director, Business Development Mr. Kealeboga Pifelo

Business Development Department was established to assist in diversifying revenue streams for the University and reduce over reliance on Government subventions as well as student fees. The Department also, through Farm Enterprises Section, maintains farm facilities which are used by the Academia as labs for teaching purposes. These labs include land for crops and research, livestock, poultry, piggery, small stock, ostriches, dairy to mention but a few.

With the revenue drive as well as Government encouraging Parastatals to raise their own revenues for self-sustenance, the Department has created a financial model that guides investment and commercialisation of facilities of the University. The basic premise of this model is the teaching aspect of each revenue earning facility or venture. As the tagline of the University is; “Producing Market Ready Students”, all business ventures will have a teaching component to introduce our students to the real world of practical commercial projects.

BUAN has adapted a Financial model, which is currently built around commercialising MITI, CICE and the Farmland portions, which will be used to incubate our students and will create employment opportunities for the graduates. This model is driven through partnerships with the private sector and other Universities. It will mostly be driven through two 100% subsidiaries of the University, namely; BUAN Enterprises (Pty) Ltd and BUAN Consult (Pty) Ltd. This arrangement is called smart partnerships, whereby, each partner invests what they have as comparative advantage in the venture. BUAN in this case, has an advantage of land and facilities which have not been exploited commercially and present an opportunity to the private sector for revenue creation. BUAN also has a lot of expertise who will be offering technical advice to the ventures in-house.



Horticulture Incubation Project



Harvested cowpeas

BUAN has been encouraged to adopt the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model to diversify revenue streams. The model explained above is a customised PPP model of investment and though the Department is still at infancy stages in terms of application of the financial model, the pilot projects have started, and so far are showing positive signs.

- The Department planted maize off-season for sale to the public and the demand outweighed the harvest
- Contract farming for maize seed for a private client is at harvesting stage
- Contract farming tswana cow peas, jugo beans and peanuts for a private client is at harvesting stage

A lot of projects are envisaged in the 2020/21 financial year. The Department is appraising several exiting projects that will change the landscape of the University if the right partners are established in anticipation of commercialisation expansion each year. By the end of the current strategic planning period, BUAN should have a sizeable business portfolio.

BUAN ROADSHOWS AND BHRDC



Prospective students filling application forms during roadshows



Happy BUAN prospect after submitting forms



BUAN staff assisting prospective students during roadshows



BUAN staff explaining requirements to prospective students and parents during Francistown BHRDC Fair

Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) went all out to attract and enrol the best brains of prospective tertiary learners. The BUAN teams ensured that they were not just recruiting students but also giving them comprehensive career guidance on opportunities in the Agriculture and Natural resources industries. The University had three teams embarking on a national roadshow and also joined the BHRDC fairs in Francistown and Maun which were held on the 24-28th February 2020 and

3-5th March 2020 respectively. The main objective was to hand hold learners to discover the exciting and intriguing opportunities the world of agriculture and natural resources has to offer.

The agriculture and natural resources landscapes have a lot to offer than perceived by most youths. According to the United States National Academy of Science (NAS) report entitled, Understanding Agriculture-New Directions for Education (1988) *“Achieving the goal of agricultural literacy will produce informed citizens able to participate in establishing the policies that will support a competitive agricultural industry in this country and abroad.”* Therefore, as BUAN, it our duty to ensure that students fully understand the potential of the whole food vale chain, as well as note the fact that, the next billionaires will indeed to come from the agricultural and natural resources sectors.

VISITS TO BUAN

International, regional and local partnerships between Universities and relevant entities are beneficial to all, from staff and students to the world. Universities recognizes these collaborations and partnerships as essential for their growth and research base. BUAN is no exception, as it has seen this quarter of the University engaging other Universities, organizations, stakeholders and individuals where possible, to establish partnerships and collaborations were explored. The university hosted delegates from Brazil, University of Tennessee, Lucara Dimonds and Honourable Ambassador of Botswana to Australia, Ms Dorcas Makgatho.



Ms. Dorcas Makgatho visited BUAN to find out areas of interests in order to market the university while abroad



Visit by Brazil Scientists from university of Sao Paulo organized by Dr Force Tefo Thema

On a yearly basis, Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources constantly hosts different schools to learn more about the programmes they offer, farm implements, machinery and career opportunities related to collaborate in, that are in the agriculture and natural resource sectors. These visits are not only discussion based, but include University full on tours.

On Thursday 13th of February 2020, BUAN hosted a team of students from the Dow Academy. The team of 35 was made up of form 4 and 5 students with 3 teachers. The main purpose of the tour was to gain knowledge about the University and to get exposure on processes and implements used. During the tour, the students had a chance to take notes, collect information as well as ask questions for clarity on various programmes offered and possible career opportunities.

The tour commenced at the Crop and Science Department with discussions led by Mrs. Setimela, who explained the uses of a greenhouse in detail, how it operates and the type of plants/species grown in it.



The Dow Academy students inside the BUAN Greenhouse

The team proceeded to the Animal Science Department where they were welcomed by Mr. Malejane who recited the different sections under the department like the Microbiology, Chemistry and the Veterinary Sciences. The students then went to the poultry house to learn about the overall production of layers and then finally visited the piggery to learn more about the pig production.

The school was later engaged at the farm to view the various farm implements and had the opportunity to learn more about beef and dairy productions. In evaluation of the trip, students and teachers appreciated the tour and it is likely that through this exercises BUAN can anticipate enrolment for 2021 and 2022 from the Dow Academy.



The Dow Academy students and teachers

BUAN prides itself in being the best and only provider of specialised programmes in agriculture and natural resources in the country. We teach Agriculture as a science and to study at BUAN you need not even have studied Agriculture as a subject at secondary level, but should have the desire and passion to succeed.

UNDERSTANDING AGRICULTURE FROM A NON-TRADITIONAL PERSPECTIVE



By: Henry David

Milly Monkhei, is a Senior Lecturer of Agricultural Economics at the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) , a product of Botswana College of Agriculture (now BUAN). She took a break to further her studies and rejoined the University as a lecturer and later on promoted to Senior lecturer. Over the years, Monkhei has held various positions including HOD. Having served in several capacities as one of the few females, at one point the only female among men and having been the first female HOD of Agricultural Economics, Education and Extension, she believes that women can be the very best that they can be if they choose to stand up and be counted on the basis of merit.

She says an understanding of agriculture as a science that transcends production of crops and animals as well as the traditional perspective of food security is vital for the attainment of sustainable productivity in the sector. Speaking in an exclusive interview with our editorial team, Monkhei said BUAN equips its students to look at agriculture from an encompassing and comprehensive perspective extending beyond mere production of crops and animals.

“In today’s world we talk more than the traditional food security. It’s not just food to fill the stomach; we talk about Nutrition Security. We need to move away from just food security to ethically producing nutritious and safe food. Actually at BUAN, we have twenty (20) Programs in eleven (11) Departments under five (5) Faculties that address the above. We need to add more focus as BUAN because consumers change, tastes and preferences change. So there is need to help agricultural producers to produce and avail what is acceptable in a changing world. This we can do within our University mandate of teaching, research and service”, said Monkhei.

Monkhei notes that apart from producing crops and animals, modern agriculture must focus on food safety and nutrition which includes reducing the effects of chemical

residues, carbon footprints (greenhouse emissions) which can be incurred in the food production, handling and transportation process and finally reaching the consumer. which can be incurred in the food production, handling and transportation process and finally reaching the consumer. “We are talking food and nutrition security as well as safety with climate change at play. We should try to change the effect of food miles and the greenhouse emissions introduced to it as it travels across the globe to the consumer. We are saying let’s produce it within the shorter distance to the consumer with good agricultural practices because the fresher it is, the more nutritious and safe it is by the time it is consumed,” This of course brings trade debates says Monkhei.

Apart from being capable of producing nutritious and safe foods, in the era of climate change what else can graduates of BUAN offer to society? Contrary to the perception of society and industry leaders, Monkhei says there is more that graduates of the University can offer.

“For instance our graduate in Agricultural Economics can serve as;

- i. Self-employed in various agricultural enterprises, starting from primary, secondary to the tertiary sectors
- ii. Farm Managers for commercial farms
- iii. Managers in Supermarkets/chain stores
- iv. Policy Analysts in Agricultural sector
- v. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) concerned with rural development
- vi. Sales personnel and production line managers
- vii. Poverty alleviation coordinators (government and non-governmental organizations)
- viii. Agribusiness advisors
- ix. Project management specialists
- x. Marketing managers
- xi. Environmental and natural resources managers
- xii. Agricultural Cooperatives and farmers’ associations advisors
- xiii. Agri-business Consultants

We are actually developing an Agribusiness program, and many other programs to add and widen the offering of our graduates to the agricultural sector said Monkhei. In its effort to promote entrepreneurship among its graduates, BUAN challenges its bachelor’s degree students to submit business proposals through the Agripreneur program. After adjudication of business proposals, successful candidates are given seed money to start up and run their projects for one (1) year at the end of which they return the principal and retain the profits.

The university also avails the opportunity to qualifying students to visit partner institutions in Israel to have hands on experience on technological advances in the field of agriculture.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING WORKSHOP
FOR BUAN STAFF MEMBERS**



Dr Violet Makuku facilitating during the workshop

Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources Management saw it fit to conduct a quality assurance training workshop after noting that high level quality services are essential to achieve the University's mandate. The training was facilitated by Dr Violet Makuku. The Dr was identified to conduct the training as she has the right skills to facilitate such a workshop. She engaged the participants on the concepts of quality assurance and what it meant to provide good quality service. She stated that "if BUAN knew what quality was, then it would know how to assure quality".

According to Manghani (2011) in the article titled, **Quality Assurance: Importance of systems and standard operating procedures**, "...Quality is a source of competitive advantage, it should remain a hallmark of Company products and services. Manghani (2011) goes on to state that 'Quality does not only relate solely to the end product and service a company provides, but also relates to the way the company employees do their job and the work processes they follow to produce products or services. The work processes should be as efficient as possible and continually improving...'"

Dr. Makuku indicated to staff members that the quality of students depends on the Institution's recruitment processes and this means quality of graduates depends on the teaching processes.



Mr. Malejane receiving a token of appreciation from Dr Makuku for being puntual

If BUAN recruits students who do not have the basic requirements for the sake of increasing enrolment, then it means the student may not perform as well as expected. It is also up to the teaching personnel to provide the required services effectively and efficiently. She said that through quality of education a nation can be made and through poor quality a nation can be killed.

Destroying a nation does not only require the use of an atomic bomb or the use of long range missiles, it can also be destroyed by lowering the quality of education and allowing cheating in examinations. e.g patients die at the hands of such doctors; buildings collapse at the hands of such engineers; money is lost at the hands of such economists and accountants and in the case of BUAN, poor education quality would mean the nation stores are at the hands of such farmers.



BUAN staff trained during the workshop

CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF LOVE – STUDENTS' VALENTINE'S DAY



The Student Welfare Officer (2nd from left) with other facilitators during the session



Students attending the session



Student Choir entertaining the attendees



Happy well informed students after the session

BUAN is one of the universities in Botswana populated by youth who are at risk of unhealthy sexual behaviour. In celebrating the month of Love, the office of Student Welfare hosted a valentine's day for students under the theme: ***Sexual responsibility-My valentine.***

The aim of the event was to spread awareness on sexual health risks and give strategies on preventing Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancies and unhealthy relationships.

The event provided an opportunity to spread awareness about sexual risks and rewards. The students actively expressed their thoughts about both unhealthy and healthy sexual behaviours, as well as learning about their responsibilities towards sexual consent to safe sex. Mr Obakeng and Ms Shirley life skill facilitators from Humana People to People Botswana gave informed

presentations and discussions on consequences of unhealthy sexual behaviours. Humana People to People is an NGO formed to implement projects that empower people with tools, knowledge and skills to foster own development in issues of sexual relations including rape, HIV/AIDS, poverty and harsh climatic conditions.

Entertainment included choral music from the BUAN students choir which came up with songs that were specifically echoing love. The day was also filled with games such as 'know your partner' and 'myths around sexual behaviour quizzes'.

The evening session which started from 7pm to 10pm, had an outdoor movie screening and games around the topic, the idea was to send messages to students in different forms. The student community appreciated the event and hoped to have it as an annual event so that more of their peers can experience the true meaning of love.

BUAN

BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

CONSIDER A CAREER IN AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES | AUGUST 2020 INTAKE

APPLY TO STUDY AT BUAN

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR AUGUST 2020 INTAKE

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

(Duration: 4 Years/8 Semesters)

- Bachelor of Science in Agriculture
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education
- Bachelor of Science in Crop Science (with streams in Agronomy & Horticulture)
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Mechanization
- Bachelor of Science in Soil & Water Conservation Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics
- Bachelor of Science in Food Science & Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Extension
- Bachelor of Science Range Science
- Bachelor of Science Animal Science

HIGHER DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

(Duration: 3 Years/6 Semesters)

- Higher Diploma in Agriculture
- Higher Diploma in Animal Health & Production
- Higher Diploma in Forestry & Range Ecology

SPECIALIST DISPENSATION FOR OVC APPLICANTS

- Application fee is not charged
- Applicant must be supported by an official letter from the Social and Community Development office

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) or Equivalent:

- Have taken at least five (5) subjects including English Language and Mathematics at the BGCSE or GCSE examination or their equivalent and obtained:
 - a minimum of grade E in English Language
 - a minimum of grade C (Credit) in Mathematics
 - Have a minimum of grade C (Credit) in at least two of:
 - Physics, Chemistry & Biology
- OR
- Have a minimum of grade BB in Science Double Award
 - Have a minimum of grade D (Pass) in any other subjects.

NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEE: BWP 150 (SADC) CITIZENS, BWP 630 (NON-SADC CITIZENS)

PLEASE NOTE THAT APPLICATIONS FOR RE-ADMISSION, PROGRESSION & TRANSFER FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS ON SELF-SPONSORED BASIS ARE ALSO OPEN & THE DEADLINE IS 30TH JUNE 2020.

"VIBRANT WORLD CLASS
UNIVERSITY"



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
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