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Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) takes pride in its alumni who are making a difference in their communities.



EDITOR'S NOTE



Ms Onkgopotse Moreri

It is without a doubt that we are living through an unprecedented global situation. As we move through these challenging and uncertain times, it is still our duty to keep you informed. Amidst the pandemic, we would like to wish you good health and safety for yourselves and your loved ones.

Our staff and students are stepping up to the challenge in such a remarkable way because of our concern for the wellbeing of the University community!

It has been inspiring to experience the positivity attitudes of colleagues, because for us working together to ensure the well-being and continuity in our students' education paths is remarkable .

Covid-19 has indeed brought about what we now know as our "New normal", and this pandemic will not stop us from pursuing our vision, instead we will work around it to fill the gaps, embrace, adapt, as well as salvage the positive opportunities it has brought about.

EDITORIAL TEAM



Ms Tirelo Mothupi



Ms Baikgantshi Motsumi



Mr Jerry Seleke

ORIENTATION

“For some of you, it is your first experience away from home, your first laundry experience which I suspect will turn your white shirts pink,” said Dr. Jasper Rees in his welcome remarks during the August 17th, 2020 orientation ceremony. He assured them that, their decision to come to BUAN was the right choice, and that both academically and socially they will grow tremendously during their stay.

The University welcomed three hundred and fifty first year students. BUAN encouraged the orientation sessions, in order to equip students academically and emotionally as a way of fostering integration and adjustment into a University based lifestyle.

On the same day of orientation, the Security Manager talked about security protocols as being a University priority for the safety and well-being of the students while on campus.

The SHE Manager was present to ensure that Covid-19 protocols were being observed, and assured the students that the University is working round the clock to monitor and ensure that measures are in place and protocols are being observed at all times by all members of the BUAN Community.

Among the speakers was his Excellency the President of the Student Representative Council (SRC) Mr. Ernest Wamorena Arabang, who shared the SRC mandate and obligations to the student body as their peer support system, advocates liaisons between management and the students.

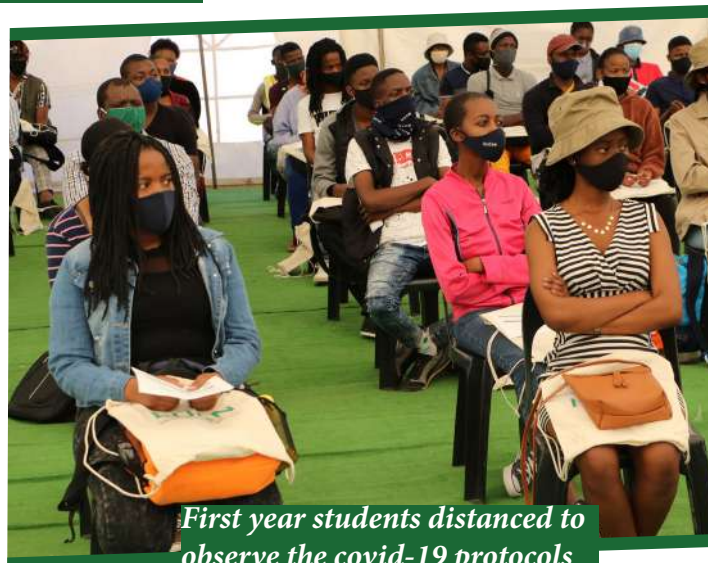
To conclude, one may safely say that the orientation day was a success and that the students were privileged to have been briefed and prepared for their campus life.



Vice Chancellor Dr Jasper Rees addressing the new students



Student Representantive Coucil-President Mr E. W. Arabang



First year students distanced to observe the covid-19 protocols

JERUSALEMA CHALLENGE

MEAT INDUSTRY TRAINING INSTITUTE EXHIBITS TEAMWORK

“For us to achieve our mandate and to realise the dream of becoming A Vibrant World Class University, it requires us to work as a team and to live one common BUAN culture, which is propelled by our values. This however won’t be achieved overnight. At the same time, we must be reminded that everyone has a role to play for the dream to be realised.” said Mr Moses Kaisara as he appreciated various BUAN departments for participating in a Jerusalem dance challenge.

The challenge was for each department to come up with a creative but fun dance routine, to compete using the Jerusalem song by Master KG and Nomcebo, famous S.A artists. The song has hit the 2020 charts world-wide and at BUAN, the Meat Industry Training Institute won the challenge.

The Vice Chancellor took some time out after the competition to thank the team for having participated.

“It is always a pleasure to come to Lobatse, since we don’t come as often as we should be, I know that this makes you feel like a small community far away from us, but it doesn’t mean that you are forgotten”, said Dr Jasper Rees in his appreciation speech.

He thanked them for having choreographed a dance routine that is elegant and entertaining to watch. “I think it’s a demonstration of real teamwork of real togetherness and a group of people having fun together is really a great thing to see,” he said.

The team was awarded certificates of appreciation, BUAN T-shirts and proceeded to have lunch with Dr Jasper Rees, as part of their reward.

In closing, Mr Kaisara said that, some people didn’t see the necessity of dancing, but as a University is transforming, there is need to adopt a culture where teamwork is a priority, a culture that shows energy and agility.



Dr Rees presented certificate of appreciation to MITI



Team MITI

KEEPING UP WITH THE ALUMNI

Omphile Bayani graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) in October 2016 (4.0 GPA). He is the founder and Managing Director of a newly formed company Asset Peak Group.

The Asset Peak Group focuses on broiler production, consultancy and is currently working on a pilot project of canned chicken. We do not have canned chicken in Botswana hence for our alumni to venture into something so unique we were astonished and proud.

He indicated that canned chicken shall be a nutritious shelf-stable product, deliciously packed in an environmentally friendly material, and ready to eat convenient product.

He also clarified to us that Asset Peak Group is a newly formed Company, which has been formed to foster the SMME objective which is to; Create job opportunities for people in which it operates, contribute in development by creating wealth and improve the well-being of the community as well as foster a vibrant economic atmosphere by being one of the leading organisations in the provision of excellent services.

His company offers opportunities to previously disadvantaged individuals and to make a meaningful contribution and be empowered as such in the economic development process.

When asked about his most memorable moments in his business, he spoke of being selected for the 2018 Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF) which is empowering African entrepreneurs award and the TEF Botswana hub secretary is his greatest achievement.

As one of BUAN’s alumni who is doing exceptionally well we had to find out how we have contributed towards him becoming the businessman that he is. He said that after graduating he was fortunate to be one of the graduates who benefited from the BUAN-LEA incubation programme. Under this program he ventured into broiler production with a goal to help bridge the country’s gap of meat demand.

He was responsible for the placing (i.e. applying all the broiler husbandry from day old until maturation as well as slaughtering) and the marketing of the chicken meat.

During this project, he got first-hand experience in broiler production thus by the end of the programme he now had an idea of the challenges in the industry.

His greatest challenge in his business is that the research on canned chicken is limited. However, he managed to engage the National Food Research and Technology Centre who designed the technical description for his company.

Apart from his Canned Chicken business he is currently serving in the African Young Farmers Network executive committee which aims to promote youth agribusinesses through collaboration and public-private partnerships. He also does community outreach with the youth of Sebele where he engages them in tree planting initiatives.

He encourages the youth of Botswana to venture in agriculture, because this is where great opportunities lie. Our people need to feed on locally produced products to reduce the country’s importation bill and promote food security in our country.



Omphile Bayani



Canned chicken

KEEPING UP WITH THE ALUMNI

A BUAN GRADUATE AGRIPRENUER – MORATI GABAFEDIWE

Morati Gabafediwe is a young man who graduated from BUAN in 2016 where he attained his Degree in BSc Agriculture. In 2017 he enrolled in the Agripreneur incubation programme, where he operated a Broiler production business. In an exclusive interview with Morati, he said, “the programme enriched me with excellent business acumen, teamwork, customer care, good record keeping and consultancy skills. I am not into production of chickens, but I am a consultant. I do poultry business plans, training and coaching, technical advices on broiler farming. I use the skills acquired to conduct some training sessions for farmers, who wish to better their poultry businesses no matter the scale of their business.”

Morati has now registered a company called Arch Transform Proprietary Limited, which he explained passionately that it is firmly grounded in a society that demands an equitable balance between people, the environment and profitability. The company is solely owned and currently focuses on manufacturing Beef Biltong which is branded OG’S Premier Biltong at a reasonable price of just P15.00 per packet.

The biltong business started around September 2019. “It started because I wanted to self-express myself, be more creative in the business world. I wanted to help the country reach its goals of being food sufficient”, narrated Morati.

He said that when he was growing up, they used to hunt wild animals, cut them in strips, and use either smoking or salting method to preserve the meat. They were so good and he fell in love with the skill.

Another reason that drives his passion is the fact that biltong is low in fat, usually averaging 3%, which makes it a popular weight-reducing diet choice. “It is naturally gluten-free. It’s the ideal banting snack, high in Vitamin B12 which is essential for healthy blood and nerve cells as well as successful cell replication,” he said. Gabafediwe explained that, “When I started the business, I noticed that most shops don’t have biltong, or they only have flavours that are not preferred by customers”. “I identified the gap, I bridged it with something I have a passion for. My goal is to see my product in Air Botswana, hotels, lodges, public transport and events. My mission is to create and promote tasty, healthy, and organic biltong snack”.

Morati stated that the challenges he faces are those of highly priced beef from suppliers. “To get cheaper meat, I have to drive out of Gaborone and petrol is not cheap”, sighed Morati. Despite the challenges, he is determined to keep pursuing the business, and he is confident that the quality of Arch Transform products and services stands out from the rest and can compete in the most exciting and competitive markets. He said he is aware of the importance of on-time deliveries and that is the reason why he works day-in and day-out to achieve his goals.

His vision is to provide local products of the highest quality and adhere to international standards. As a side hassle, Morati also offers printing services like T-shirt printing, car branding, stickers, flyers and so forth.

In conclusion, he says “Batswana need to sees opportunities and be optimistic”.



Morati Gabafediwe showcases his products



Morati's biltong

BUAN ALUMNI COLLABORATION- BROILER CHICKEN PRODUCTION

Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) takes pride in its alumni who are making a difference in their communities. Omphile and Morati are some of those who have really stepped up the game by not only starting up their own companies but by also giving back to the community. The duo together with BUAN organized a free training session for broiler chicken farmers at Rasesa. The farmers learnt proper management of broiler chicken in order for it to produce quality meat.

Farmers travelled from as far as Maun and Francistown to attend this training session.

When asked why the duo initiated this training session they said that, they are looking into producing canned chicken which means that they will need suppliers who can provide good quality meat. COVID-19 has affected a lot of businesses across the globe, yet farming remains essential, this means that a lot of Batswana can benefit from any form of farming business. “In order to succeed in business one should provide good quality service or offer the best products. This session is important as I have learnt a great deal,” said one of the attendees.



BUAN RECEIVES DONATIONS FROM NOGID

Nogid Pty Ltd is a company that supplies and maintains medical equipment, they also offer project and consultancy services. This company saw it fit to donate hand sanitisers, gloves and masks to BUAN as an add on to what they have so that when the need arises the University can have enough personal protective equipment.

The Vice Chancellor, Dr Jasper Rees appreciated the gesture as in difficult times, it is often difficult for companies to dig deep into their pockets and share with others, as they too are equally affected and not making enough profits to sustain themselves.



BUAN Receives Donations From Nogid



**BUAN PRESENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
JUSTICE AND SECURITY (MDJS) STAFF**

The MDJS Health and Wellness Coordinator wrote to the Vice Chancellor inviting some members of BUAN staff to make presentations on Water Recycling, Mushroom Farming and Backyard Gardening to members of their staff on 15th July 2020. The aim of the presentations were to encourage MDJS staff to participate in farming, in order to increase household food security in light of the COVID-19 pandemic which has threatened job security. The presenters who were nominated were: Prof EB Khonga and Prof O. Oagile from the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences; Dr G Gaboutloeloe from the department of Agricultural

and Biosystems Engineering (ABE), who made presentations on Mushroom Farming, Backyard Gardening and Water Recycling, respectively. In addition, the Acting Director of the Centre for Inservice and Continuing Education (CICE) Dr I.A. Legwaila was included to present CICE short courses.

The Vice Chancellor, Dr Jasper Rees was also present. The presentations were done in two sessions of about 50 people each according to COVID-19 regulations.



BUAN delegates during the MDJS presentation



Prof. Khonga presenting on mushroom production



Dr Gaboutloeloe presenting on waste water recycling



Some of MDJS staff during the workshop session

SPORTS NEWS

This year BUAN hosted the Confederation of Universities and College Sports association (CUCSA) selections where several athletes were chosen from various sporting codes to make Team Botswana which would travel to Lesotho for the CUCSA competitions.

Our Boys and Girls rugby teams attended the Level 1 International Coaching course. Some students in our Karate team managed to get invites to the National Team selections which will take place once the national lockdown has been lifted.

In August 2020 our very own Mr. Obusitse Phodiso managed to pass the first stage of the Rugby Level 2 International Coaching Course and will soon be an internationally recognised Level 2 qualified coach.

In the same month one of our boxers Mogomotsi Royal Mosweu got his image rights bought by FNB Botswana and will be appearing in different FNB Botswana marketing material through out the country.



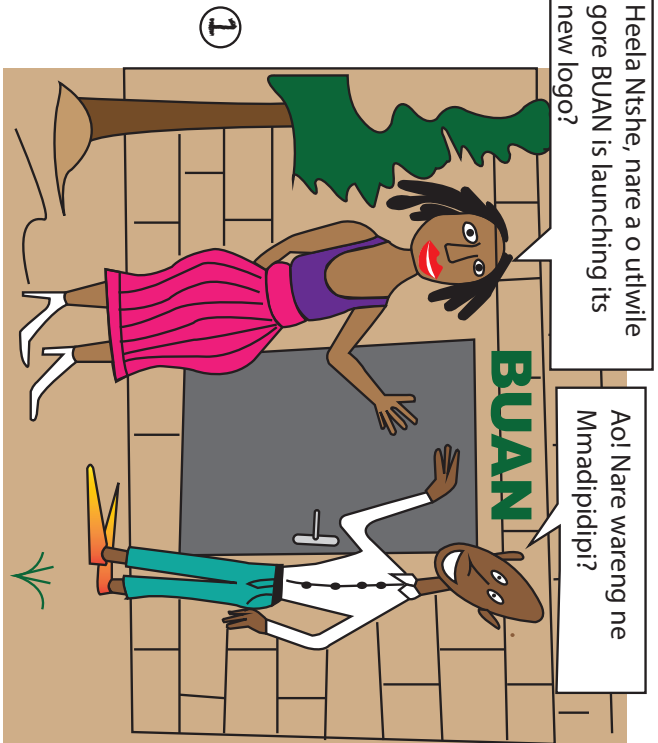
BUAN rugby team



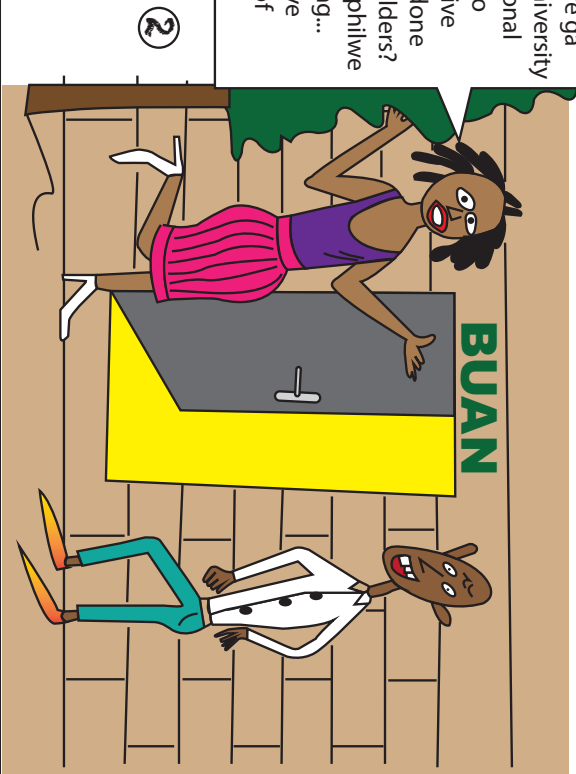
Mogomotsi Royal Mosweu



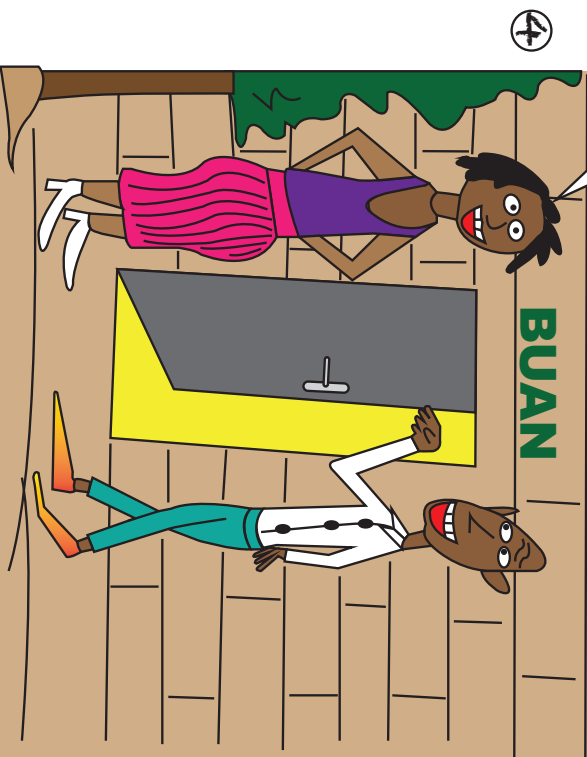
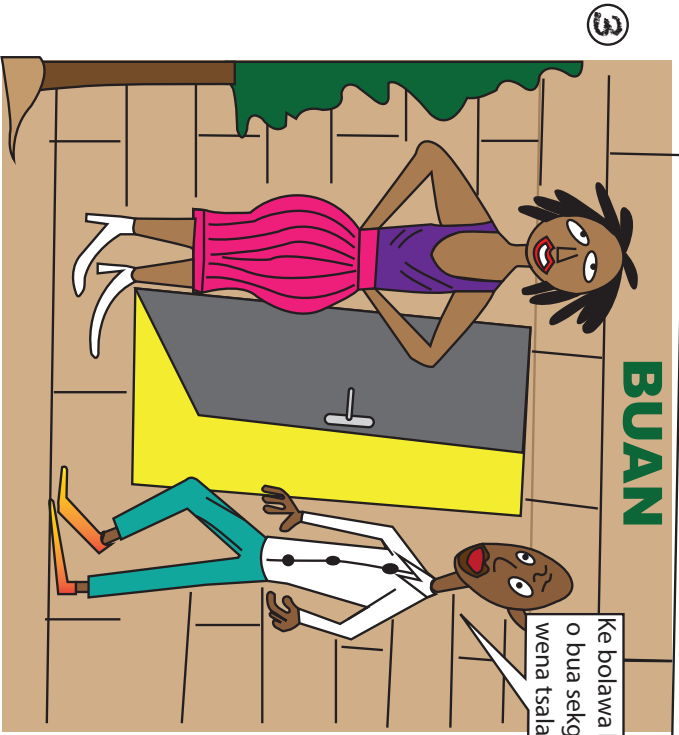
Obusitse Phodiso-Rugby coach



Heela herra,wareng okare ga o a itumela jaana?The University has been using a transitional brand since Inception. A o gakologelwa that extensive consultation which was done with all University stakeholders? Kana go feletswe go thophiliwe a new logo! This is exciting... ke sesupo sa gore we have reached the final phase of transformation.



Heela therra, kana we are a "World Class University", Its a must that I speak so eloquently, besides, the university is a hub for the international community, ke itswere ka ditsala tse di international, ba nthuta go bua monate jaana! o tlasala hoo!





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