

BUSINESS BOTSWANA

Statement by Business Botswana President Lekwalo L Mosienyane

At The Business Botswana Private Sector Development Program Launch

On 7th December 2015 At Avani Hotel And Casino

Gaborone

Director of Ceremonies

Hon. Minister of Trade and Industry

H.E. EU Ambassador

Ambassadors and Head of Missions

Permanent Secretaries

CEO Business Botswana

Head CDE RFO

CEOs

BB Council Members

PSDP Beneficiaries

Distinguished Guest

Media

Today marks a special milestone in a series of achievements that Business Botswana, has made over its many years of existence. It is with a sense of pride and a feeling of accomplishment that I stand before you on this occasion to mark the successful transfer of the Private Sector Development Program (PSDP) from the Centre of Development of Enterprise (CDE). Going forward Business Botswana will be responsible for implementation of the program.

This programme has come on time and is a major milestone for Business Botswana. It will multiply the added value of services offered by our organization to the private sector and it will strengthen our collaboration with local Botswana intermediary organizations.

Having recently assumed the structure of an Apex Body in a process that was supported by the PSDP, I can only celebrate that as an organization, we have made great strides in the journey towards becoming an active player in the development of the private sector in Botswana, and inadvertently in the development agenda of Botswana.

Such an achievement would not have been possible without the support of the government of Botswana through the Ministries of Trade and Industry and that of Finance and Development Planning. The ministries jointly mobilized resources from the European Union EDF Funds for the start of a program whose aim was to develop and build the capacities of small, medium and micro enterprises, community based organizations, intermediary organizations in Botswana. This support is a demonstration of the vibrant partnership that we have with the government where we are working together to create a business friendly environment. We are proud of the relationship we have.

In 2013 Business Botswana undertook the Private Sector Development Strategy (PSDS) - A study that gave birth to PSDP. Through a strategic alliance between the Government, CDE and BB, the CDE initiated the PSDP. We are today witnessing a relay of events that started in 2013. The confidence and trust that has been shown on us is humbling as it is an indication that we are a responsible organization that can deliver.

The baton is now being handed to BB to carry on from a very strong foundation that was well laid out by CDE. We have been part of the progress of the PSDP, which since inception has been communicated through various media, and we have found it to be very impressive indeed. A number of those who benefitted from the program have expressed satisfaction at the way it has been done.

We would like to assure stakeholders, more particularly the Government of Botswana and Development Partners that we accept this, the PSDP with a promise to ensure that it achieves its objectives. It is with a great sense of ownership that we are will to carry on the function of implementation of the remainder of what was started by CDE. This comes from the fact that Business Botswana has been an integral part of the PSDP wherein our responsibility was that of Monitoring and Evaluation as well as being a member of the Management Committee. We have learnt a lot during the process and we are confident that team will continue to deliver a top class program.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to MTI and MFDP for the logistic facilities that have been provided to BB in order to implement the PSDP in the best condition.

It is foreseen that the PSDP as it is will come to an end on 31st December 2016. What lingers in everybody's mind is whether there will be a follow up program in order to achieve the required sustainability.

We at Business Botswana strongly believe that there is a genuine case for continuing this program. Having learnt from the current program one cannot rule out the need to take the beneficiaries to the next level of development.

There is a need for a robust and more resourced program which will see the current beneficiaries and those that will join at that time being taken on further capacity building initiatives which will make them a lot more active not just in the local economy, but regionally and internationally.

Let me close by thanking all of you for your attention.