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News flashes from the UN in Botswana

Diplomats clean up Mogoditshane

Gaborone, 11 May 2005: The First Lady Barbara Mogae will be among members of the diplomatic community Saturday on a clean up campaign to pick litter in Mogoditshane village.

Addressing a press conference at the UN building Wednesday morning, members of the diplomatic community resident in Botswana including UN agencies, indicated that they have been watching with a lot of interest the First Lady as she's been going around the country in her clean up campaigns.

As the diplomatic community "hosted by the government of Botswana we thought we should complement the efforts of the First Lady in her clean up campaigns," said Mrs Theresia Samaria, the Namibian High Commissioner to Botswana, who was also chairing the press conference.



Some of the diplomats at the press conference

Efforts to clean up Mogoditshane will start on Thursday with the diplomats going to seven schools in Mogoditshane village where they will address students about the importance of a clean environment.

"It's not just enough to engage in clean up campaign, we want to plant something in the minds of these young people about the importance of keeping the environment clean and its benefits", explained the WHO Resident Representative, Dr Jean Alfazema Kalilani.



Diplomats who addressed the media

The campaign lead under the slogan of: "**All for One, A clean Environment**" is coordinated by Environmental Heritage Foundation. Penrich & Capricorn group of companies and Kgalagadi Breweries Limited will sponsor the event.

Diplomats take the environmental issues close to their hearts. To show their commitment they have financially

contributed towards this cause from their own pockets, not from their official budgets, explained Dr Kalilani.

The occasion will also be graced by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife & Tourism, Dr Lucas Gakale, who will be representing the Minister, as well as Mogoditshane kgosi and headmen.

The clean up campaign will start with participants gathering at Mogoditshane kgotla on Saturday morning, before they are divided into four teams that will take different

corners of the village. The Botswana Defence Force, Police, Air Botswana are some of the organisations that have enlisted to participate with the diplomats.

United Nations – Botswana
Tel: (267) 395-2121 or 3971505

For more information contact [Marx Garekwe](#) or [Moagi Gaborone](#)