



## BOTSWANA

### Bimonthly News Bulletin

No. 3- NOVEMBER 2004

#### EDITORIAL



Welcome to the pages of our Bimonthly News Bulletin from UNDP in Botswana. A number of activities have taken place since the last publication in May. Through this edition we intend to provide you with an update of what we have been doing and other of developments in Botswana.

Some of the activities we have undertaken in the last two months include the successful **UN Staff Retreat** we conducted the small town of Palapye in September under the theme of “**Common Solutions to Common Concerns**”. This retreat will have an indelible mark on me because I ruptured my achilles tendon in a soccer match against a local team. I’m happy though to say that I gradually recovering after several weeks on crutches.

The month of September also witnessed the launch of the maiden MDG Repor “**Achievements, Future Challenges and Choices**”. And in October we had a successful launch of the Africa 2015 song – “**We are the Drums**”. As you will read elsewhere in the pages of this newsletter, the song is now playing on Botswana Television and our local radio stations. It was launched to mark this year’s International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY AND BENEFIT FROM THE READING!

**BJØRN FØRDE**

RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

#### United Nations Development Programme in Botswana

UNDP is the development network of the United Nations, advocating for change, and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is working to support the **Government and People of Botswana** build the human and institutional capacity needed to meet challenges in areas like HIV/AIDS, poverty, environment, governance and globalisation; to implement the objectives and aspirations expressed in the **Vision 2016**; and to address the goals and targets set by the international community, including the **Millennium Development Goals** in particular.

Physical address: United Nations Place, 22 Khama Crescent. Mailing address: P.O. Box 54, Gaborone

Telephone: (267) 3952121. Fax: (267) 3956093. Email: [registry.bw@undp.org](mailto:registry.bw@undp.org)

Website address: [www.unbotswana.org.bw](http://www.unbotswana.org.bw).

## **No. 3 – NOVEMBER 2004**

### **EDITORIAL NOTE**

The News Bulletin is edited by the Public Affairs and Communication Officer, **Mr Marx Garekwe**, who can be contacted as follows:

- Telephone: +267 3952121 ext. 242
- Cellphone: +267 72104301
- Email: [marx.garekwe@undp.org](mailto:marx.garekwe@undp.org)

Unless otherwise indicated in the byline of an article, it has been written by the Public Affairs and Communication Officer.

### **MANAGEMENT**

The Editor is advised by an **Editorial Committee** including, among others, the UNDP Resident Representative, **Mr Bjørn Førde**, who is responsible for the contents and the official UNDP views expressed in the articles. He can be contacted as follows:

- Telephone: +267 3951680
- Cellphone: +267 72100549
- Email: [bjorn.foerde@undp.org](mailto:bjorn.foerde@undp.org)

Other members of the Management group can also be contacted:

- **Ms. Viola Morgan, Deputy RR**
- Telephone: +267 3952121 ext. 204
- Email: [viola.morgan@undp.org](mailto:viola.morgan@undp.org)
- **Mr Moaneng, Assistant RR**
- Telephone: +267 3952121 ext. 203
- Email: [r.moaneng@undp.org](mailto:r.moaneng@undp.org)
- **Ms Kenae Ramodimoosi, Operations Manager**
- Telephone: +267 3952121 ext. 201
- Email: [kenae.ramodimoosi@undp.org](mailto:kenae.ramodimoosi@undp.org)

### **PROGRAM MANAGERS**

- **Mr. Senny Obuseng, Manager, Poverty Unit**
- Email: [senny.obuseng@undp.org](mailto:senny.obuseng@undp.org)
- **Ms. Lydia Matebesi, Manager, HIV/AIDS Unit**
- Email: [Lydia.matebesi@undp.org](mailto:Lydia.matebesi@undp.org)
- **Mr Leonard Dikobe, Manager, Environment Unit**
- Email: [leonard.dikobe@undp.org](mailto:leonard.dikobe@undp.org)
- **Ms. Nancy Kgengwenyane, Manager, Governance Unit**
- Email: [nancy.kgengwenyane@undp.org](mailto:nancy.kgengwenyane@undp.org)
- **Mr. Andreas Sieren, Manager, UN Volunteers**
- Email: [andreas.sieren@undp.org](mailto:andreas.sieren@undp.org)

## **UN BOTSWANA GOES ON A RETREAT TO PALAPYE**

**UN BOTSWANA RECENTLY (8–10 SEPTEMBER 2004) HELD AN ALL-STAFF RETREAT TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES FACING THEIR ORGANISATION AND TO ALSO ASSESS THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND TO MAP OUT THEIR ROUTE TO THE FUTURE.**

The retreat, attended by some 75 staff members from all the UN agencies resident in Botswana, was held in the small town of Palapye, in the Central District, some 300 km north of the capital city Gaborone. The theme of the retreat was “**Common solutions to common concerns**”.

The objective of the retreat was to develop a shared understanding and commitment to the role of the United Nations in Botswana, particularly with respect to some of the interventions by the UN Country Team during the 2004 period. It was also to develop a deeper understanding of the HIV epidemic and the underlying issues that make people powerless, and to forge strategic partnerships.

### **THE ROLE OF THE UN**

Addressing the retreat participants, UN Resident Representative, Mr Bjoern Foerde, said it is important for the UN family to “meet like this to strengthen our shared commitment” on how we can serve the government and people of Botswana better.



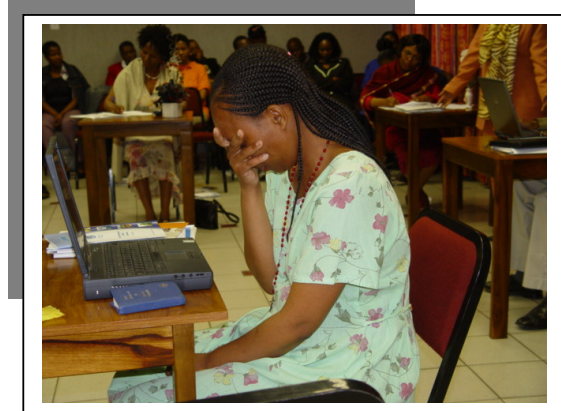
*Resident Coordinator Mr Bjoern Foerde, conferring with Mr Benny Otim of UNHCR.*

The Resident Coordinator indicated that collectively the UN has the knowledge and technical expertise to

address the issue of poverty and other social issues where the country needs assistance. "We have the capacity, and hopefully at the end of the day there'll be the political will to achieve the millennium development Goal (MDGs)", he said.

The retreat also benefited from a presentation by Dr Tsemo, from the Office of the High Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR), who gave a presentation on the efforts of her office and the UN as a whole to adopt a human rights based approach to development.

In her presentation, Dr Tsemo stated that the main objective of her office is to develop capacity and strengthen national institutions where human rights are concerned. In the absence of human rights brings about poverty, conflict political exclusion and other social ills, she said. She mentioned that OHCHR is there to coordinate and strengthen the UN Country Team's capacity on what they're doing with respect to human rights.



***Kedibonye" the principal character of the theatre, could not believe the results of her HIV test***

During agency presentations participants were given an opportunity to know what each agency is doing and how they could support each other in the field because most of their programmes are complementary. Resident agencies presented their respective mandates and activities.

When all was said and done, the Resident Representative reminded participants that while UN agencies recognize their different mandates to their common concerns, it has become clear that "there are more things that unite us than divide. Our diversity is our strength," he said, adding that many of the suggestions participants have come up with during the retreat will help the UN Country Team to do their work better.

On the final day four UN inter-agency working groups explored topics ranging from how to implement the UN Reform in Botswana to initiatives on staff unity.



***Heads of Agencies at the retreat***

The major highlights of the retreat centred on a theatre presentation by members of staff who acted under the guidance of a drama team from Johannesburg, South Africa. The drama was held within the context of the "We Care" & "Leadership" programme which seeks to tackle issues of, HIV/AIDS at the workplace. The main messages of the theatre were how employees (both infected and uninfected) should learn to interact with each other in the workplace.

During the theatre, which was participatory also pointed to bad practices of interacting with HIV-positive people at the workplace and allowing UN agency staff to share experiences and interventions to improve their relations and practices.

This session saw everybody participating as most participants brought in their ideas as to how the situation regarding HIV-positive colleagues should be treated in the workplace.

## **SOCCKER MATCH**

Amidst their busy schedule, participants had a chance for social engagements as the UN football team took on the Palapye-based Kamanga Stars Football club. The UN lads, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator (going by the name Man Plus Ball) proved their mettle as they held their Palapye hosts to a goalless first half.

The UN conceded the only goal of the match during the dying minutes of the second half after the Resident Coordinator sustained a serious injury. All in all it was a fun-filled outing with most male stars taking their chance at the ball.

[The full report from the Retreat will soon be available on the UNDG web.](#)

## **NEWSFLASH: EVENTS**

### **SEPTEMBER**

- **SEPTEMBER 8 - 10 – UN RETREAT:** All the United Nations agencies resident in Botswana held a successful staff retreat in Palapye under the theme “**Common Solutions to Common Concerns**”.

### **OCTOBER**

- **OCTOBER 25 – UNITED NATIONS DAY:** Botswana joined the international community in commemorating the UN Day. This year the traditional day of 24<sup>th</sup> October falling on a Sunday the event was to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October.
- **OCTOBER 18 – INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY (IDEP):** Botswana commemorated this event by launching the Africa 2015 song – “We Are the Drums”. It was a successful event attended by members of the diplomatic community, government senior officials, the media as well as members of the public.

### **NOVEMBER**

- **NOVEMBER 14-19 – NORDIC JOURNALISTS:** A group of seven journalists plus two UNDP staff from the Nordic countries visited Botswana. This is an annual exercise, coordinated by the UNDP Nordic Office in Copenhagen in cooperation with UNAIDS in Geneva. The purpose is to provide the Nordic journalists with first hand information about HIV/AIDS related activities, to be disseminated to the public in preparation for World Aids Day on 1<sup>st</sup> December. The UN in Botswana considers this to be important because the Nordic countries are important donors for the UN, and because we believe Botswana can provide good examples of how a country responds to the epidemic.
- **NOVEMBER 23– TEACHER CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME – TEACHERS AND PARENTS WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING SCHOOL LEVELS’ RESPONSE TO HIV:** The workshop was basically exploring ways and means of bringing up children with skills and knowledge about HIV/AIDS. This workshop for Remote Area Dwellers in Kgalagadi North.

## **UNDP SUPPORTED TV PROGRAMME WINS AN AF- RICAN AWARD**

A UNDP SPONSORED TELEVISION PROGRAMME RECENTLY WON AN INTERNATIONAL AWARD AT THE FOURTH *HIGHWAY AFRICA NEW MEDIA AWARDS ANNUAL CEREMONY*. *TALKBACK*, A TEACHER CAPACITY BUILDING TELEVISION PROGRAMME WAS ENTERED FOR THE HIGHWAY AFRICA AWARDS FOR INNOVATIVE USE OF THE NEW MEDIA, WHERE IT WON THE OVERALL PRIZE FOR THE *INNOVATIVE USE OF NEW MEDIA AWARD*.

*TalkBack* - a live interactive television program that broadcast weekly on Botswana Television is the brainchild of Mark Malloch Brown, UNDP Administrator. It is the main communication vehicle of the Teacher Capacity Building for HIV/AIDS Prevention in Botswana implemented by the Ministry of Education, with support from UNF, UNDP and ACHAP.

“Not only is the programme interactive, it also employs technology by using short message service (SMS) aspect of cellular phones by viewers to interact with the presenters in the studio during presentation”, said Adonai Rocha, TV director and multimedia producer of *TalkBack*. He received the *Innovative Use of New Media Award* during the ceremony.

The award giving ceremony, held in Grahamstown, South Africa, was attended by journalists from all over the world, university professors as well as corporate South Africa, was broadcast on the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) last night.

This year’s event attracted over 250 entries from 30 countries across the continent.

"I am glad to note that **TALKBACK** is making an impact not just locally, but also in the region as a whole", said UNDP Resident Representative, Mr Bjorn Foerde.

**TALKBACK** is a very popular television program in Botswana, particularly among teachers and students.

"Ever since TCB was launched, it has helped us teachers a lot. We now have more knowledge to infuse HIV in our classes. Our teachers have shown a lot of interest in the programme. Even our kitchen ladies, cleaners and security guards watch Talk Back. We hardly miss a programme," said Ms. Seele Moaodi, HIV/AIDS Coordinator, Ledumang Primary School, Gaborone.

### THE CEREMONY

During the live awards ceremony, a video clip was presented, showing the website and SMS integration developed by **TalkBack**

Producer, Rocha, a Brazilian national employed by UNDP under South-to-South Cooperation to assist with capacity-building in the use of multimedia to fight HIV/AIDS scourge.

Professor Tawana Kupe, Head of Media Studies at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, and convenor of the judges, presented the three Highway Africa New Media Awards to the winners of three categories: Individual, Non-Profit and Corporate. These awards celebrate the creative, innovative and appropriate use of New Media and ICTs, and are the premier awards recognizing excellence in New Media in Africa.

Recently some of **TalkBack** staff attended and presented materials at the HIV/AIDS conference in Bangkok, Thailand.



## UN VOLUNTEERS UPDATE



- The SACI Orientation as described took place from 28 June-2 July 2004.
- The UNV Documentary was shot and finalized in October 2004. Central theme was UNV Specialists under various UN Agency Programmes assisting in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Botswana.
- UNV and UNDP will together with NACA convene a one-day workshop with the Foreign Volunteer Organizations, National Volunteer Service Organizations, government representatives and UN representatives on 10 November 2004. Objective: explore ways of enhanced collaboration in addressing the human resources needs in Botswana within the SACI framework.
- 11 Of the 15 CCEP NUNVs have been recruited and briefed. They will go for a comprehensive CCEP training from 25 Nov - 04 Dec 2004 in Palapye together with District AIDS Coordinators and other UNV Specialists.
- 2 out of 5 SACI Policy Advisor Posts have been filled (UNDP and DPSP), the remaining ones will be filled shortly.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM THE UNV PROGRAMME OFFICER, MR ANDREAS SIENEN.

## BOTSWANA LAUNCHES THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT

BOTSWANA'S FIRST MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT, RELEASED IN SEPTEMBER STATES THAT DESPITE HIGH LEVELS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THE COUNTRY HAS ACHIEVED IN LAST THREE-AND-HALF DECADES THE SCOURGE OF HIV/AIDS AND HIGH LEVELS OF POVERTY REMAIN KEYS CHALLENGES FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN NATION. LAUNCHED BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, HONOURABLE BALEDZI GAOLATLHE, IN BOTSWANA'S CAPITAL CITY GABORONE, THE REPORT EXAMINES THE PRELIMINARY PROGRESS THE COUNTRY HAS MADE SO FAR IN THE EIGHT MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs) AGREED TO BY WORLD LEADERS IN 2000.



**Minister of Finance & Development Planning, Mr Baledzi Gaolatlhe, when delivering the keynote address.**

The report states that despite its macroeconomic success, the country has a serious problem of poverty compared to countries of similar economic stature. Poverty in Botswana is fundamentally a structural problem says the report.

The report further states that while the country has mobilized both the political will and the resources to fight the HIV/AIDS scourge, a major weakness in the fight is the slow pace of voluntary testing.

"The MDG Report is not only a reporting tool, but also a mechanism for evaluating the substance of development process," said the Minister when launching the report.

The report gives a synopsis of how the country is progressing on all the eight goals.

The report provides a platform for mobilizing broad-based coalition for development, especially for the poor, while holding leaders and institutions accountable to their constituents, he added.

### **MDGs AND VISION 2016**

During a ceremony which brought together government officials, academia, civil society leaders and representatives of international organizations and donor agencies, media as well as the diplomatic community the Minister informed his audience that the goals are in line with Botswana's national Vision 2016. Vision 2016 is a set of seven pillars or goals which the nation set for itself to achieve by the year 2016 when it attains 50 years of independence.

The vision stands on a set of seven pillars of: building an educated and informed nation; prosperous and productive; compassionate, just and caring safe and secure; as well as united and proud nation. These are complementary to the ideals of the MDGs.

The Minister however stated that the HIV/AIDS scourge continues to be a major development challenge facing the country today. It has impacted negatively on government's efforts to reduce poverty and hunger as it affects everybody including the able-bodied members of the community.

"Given this scenario, it will not be easy to ensure that no person will be living below the income poverty datum line by 2015, said the Minister, adding that: "We also note that although government provides free and quality maternal and child health services throughout the country, the infant and child mortality rates have increased due to HIV/AIDS scourge in recent years".

### **BOTSWANA'S ACHIEVEMENTS**

"The MDGs are changing the terms of global development debate, perhaps not in a manner as dramatic as terrorism and the "war on terrorism", but in a far-reaching manner still", said UN Resident Coordinator, Mr Bjoern Foerde when giving the global perspective of the MDGs.

He stated that while Botswana has delivered on her sovereign obligation of producing the MDG Report it is important that the country "develop the capacity to produce the indicators needed to effectively monitor its progress against the MDGs." This should not be a separate process from monitoring progress against Vision2016, he added.



**United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mr Bjoern Foerde, responding to questions from the audience.**

A multi-sectoral committee including government, civil society and non-governmental organisations put the MDG Report together. The committee started its work in September 2003.

The report, written in a user-friendly format, will be distributed to all sectors of the society, including village development committees and grassroots organisations.



**Members of the diplomatic community, researchers, civil society, media as well as government senior officials, among others, attended the launch.**

## BOTSWANA COMMEMORATES UN DAY 2004

UN BOTSWANA TODAY JOINED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN COMMEMORATING THE UN IN THE COUNTRY'S CAPITAL, GABORONE. THE OCCASION, HELD AT THE UN PLACE, WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY RESIDENT IN BOTSWANA, GOVERNMENT SENIOR OFFICIALS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, UN STAFF, AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA, AMONG OTHERS.

The keynote address of the day was given by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, **Mr Serwalo Tumelo**, who was standing in for the Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Hon. Lt General Mompoti Merafhe who, due to other commitments in the final week before elections on 30 October, was not able to attend personally.



**The keynote speaker Mr Serwalo Tumelo (left), Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning with the UN Resident Coordinator Bjoern Foerde.**

Mr Tumelo told his audience that the UN Day is commemorated to reflect on the challenges that confront humanity and to find the best ways to advance human development. He noted that since its creation the United Nations has achieved a lot in advancing international development and in contributing to world peace and security.

While pointing out that the world is still bedeviled with many social ills including armed conflicts, civil strife and natural disasters he noted that: "We in Botswana

have noted with admiration the UN's perseverance in tackling these problems despite the hazards and risks faced by the UN staff in the performance of their duties".

Mr. Tumelo also told his audience that Botswana has enjoyed a fruitful partnership with the United Nations since attaining independence in 1966. He illustrated the Botswana-UN partnership by mentioning a number of programmes supported by UN agencies such as WHO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNDP.

Mr Tumelo expressed hope that the UN will continue to work with member states in mobilizing resources for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) "which are so critical to our development", he said.

## MESSAGE FROM THE UN

The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr Bjoern Foerde, welcomed guests and presented the Secretary General's message of the day. He noted that while generally it may be difficult for many sub-Saharan African countries to meet the MDG goals by 2015, is important to recognize "great strides made by Botswana, through the combination of good macro-economic management and good governance".

He reaffirmed the UN's commitment to supporting the people and government of Botswana, in doing their part in achieving the MDGs as well as the country's own Vision 2016. He also mentioned that the UN will continue to be active in Botswana "in ways that are relevant to the challenges facing the nation today".

The occasion was also graced by the presence of the Executive Secretary for the Economic Commission for Africa, Mr KY Amoako. He is also chairing the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa established by the UN Secretary General. He is also a member of the Blair Commission



matic community, government senior officials, civil society as well as the media.

Mr Amoako highlighted some of the major challenges confronting the African continent at the moment. He mentioned how these are being addressed in different forums that will be meeting during 2005.

## 2015 SONG

The highlights of the day included performances by Ghetto Artists, a youth group based in Francistown, which in addition to playing music items during the programme, performed the Africa 2015 song – "We Are the Drums". Their version of the song held audiences spellbound as they rendered it in drama style. They produced lyrics in local languages to drive home messages on HIV/AIDS and poverty reduction.

As part of the "Africa 2015" drive designed to boost the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the song was launched all over the African continent during the commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) on Monday 18 October.

Put together by 18 top African musicians the song is an invitation to all people in Africa to do everything it takes to stop AIDS and stifle poverty. Already some of Botswana's finest musicians (including Lonaka Band of Taolo Moshaga and Soca Moruakgomo) have enlisted to popularize the song in the country by playing it to carry the message on HIV/AIDS and poverty across.



Ghetto Artists captured the audience's attention when they took to the stage to perform "We Are the Drums".

In giving the 'vote of thanks', the UNICEF representative, Mr. Gordon Jonathan Lewis, thanked Mr Tumelo for the good cooperation between the UN and the Government of Botswana. He also emphasized the commitment of UN agencies to the UN reforms mentioned by the Secretary General in his statement. Mr.

Lewis also encouraged all participants to support the work of Ghetto Artists Productions, and also thanked the members of the diplomatic community for reaffirming their commitment to UN Day as members of the organisation.

Despite that this is a critical week for the country; with people just bracing themselves for a general election in five days' time event received good attendance from various sections of the society.

## **NEWSFLASH!**

### **BOTSWANA HAS NEW DEPUTY RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Ms Viola Morgan joined UNDP Botswana this September as the new Deputy Resident Representative. Mrs. Morgan replaces Mrs. Comfort Tetteh who left Botswana in July to relocate to Headquarters in New York



***UNDP Deputy Resident Representative,  
Ms Viola Morgan***

## **SACI UPDATE**

- **COUNTRYWIDE ASSESSMENTS:** UNDP has organized a regional workshop on the tool that will be used to decide on the need for human resource interventions.
- **INTERNATIONAL UNVs:** 5 international UNVs are in the process of being recruited to support Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Education and DPSM. One will work at the UNDP office.
- **NATIONAL UNVs:** 15 national UNVs will be recruited to support the building of capacity at district and community levels.
- **SACI MISSION TO BOTSWANA:** The SACI is being monitored from the new UNDP Regional Centre in Johannesburg. A mission will visit Botswana in June-July to meet with the Government as well as SADC.

**MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM THE SACI DESK  
OFFICER: ERIC HUBBARD**

## **ENVIRONMENT UPDATE**

The Program Support Document (2003-2005) is now being implemented. Adverts are out for the Programme Implementation Unit. A number of thematic projects are being implemented by UNDP and various government and NGO partners. These include the following:

- Southern Africa Biodiversity Support Programme (aimed at promoting synergies on Biodiversity Conservation in the SADC member states)
- Promotion of Non-motorized Transport and the use of Photo-voltaic (as a means of reducing energy related CO2 emissions)
- Indigenous Vegetation Project (aimed at the rehabilitation of degraded rangelands)

A number of projects are still at preparatory stages and will address land degradation, capacity issues in community management of Okavango Delta, and integrated water resource management.

UNDP is also hosting the **Small Grants Program of the Global Environment Facility**. This will be presented in more detail in the next issue.

**MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT UNIT PROGRAMME OFFICER, MR. LEONARD DIKOBE.**

## **YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE CHALLENGES ARTISTS TO DRIVE AFRICA 2015**

**OCTOBER 18 MONDAY UNDP BOTSWANA JOINED THE REST OF WORLD IN COMMEMORATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY (IDEP) BY LAUNCHING THE AFRICA 2015 SONG – “WE ARE THE DRUMS”.**

The activities of the commemoration began with popular radio breakfast shows interviewing the Resident Representative Mr Bjoern Foerde on Africa 2015 and the concept of “We Are the World” song.

Activities of the commemoration included a press conference addressed by the Resident Representative, Mr Bjoern Foerde. He told journalists that in driving the Africa 2015, UNDP does not have its own agenda but ploughs in into national development programmes of host nations. “Africa 2015 can bring Africans together on how we deal with the challenges identified in the Millennium Development Goals” he said.



**Resident Representative Mr Bjoern Foerde (left) addressing a press conference with a youth representative Mr Pheny Mogae (right).**

While recognizing many strides Botswana has made in economic development over the years the Resident Representative acknowledged that a lot still needs to be done, particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS and poverty reduction, in order for the country to

achieve the MDGs and by extension the country's own vision 2016.

Journalists attended the event from all the major newspapers, all the radio stations and the two television stations in Botswana. The president of the Botswana Music Association Mr Taolo Moshaga also graced the occasion with some members of his association. Mr Moshaga, himself a musician of repute in Botswana and the region has agreed to join the Africa 2015 movement by rehearsing and playing the song in the future.



***President of the Botswana Music Association, Mr Taolo Moshaga, (right) of Lonaka Band, with some his colleagues also graced the occasion.***

The audience also heard a presentation by youth representative, Mr Phenyio Mogae, one of the young people who attended the Pan African Youth Summit in Dakar Senegal. He alerted his audience that as young people make up a substantial portion of the country's population they can be effective drivers of Africa 2015 as they have the vigour and energy. "This effectively puts them on a vantage ground so far as advancing the course of Africa 2015 Initiative", he said.

Phenyio who is Botswana's youth MDGs ambassador indicated that while the country provides a conducive environment for the attainment of the MDGs "therefore there is need for us to come up with comprehensive social reforms, including the reduction of economic inequalities, improvements in our education to equip its products with the necessary skills to perform effectively in a globalizing world".

"I must state that the youths of this country, like elsewhere, can only make a meaningful contribution to these initiatives if they are fully involved right from formulation through implementation processes.

MDG's are not exclusive reserve for the UN and State Presidencies, they belong to all of us", he said

He called on the youths and artists of various orientations young and old, to take their rightful place in driving the Africa 2015 movement forward.

"You possess the most powerful weapons in your works art for Africa to move forward. Only when you recognize this potent power will Africa move forward", he implored his audience.



***Some of the journalists who covered the event***

In joining hands with UNDP all radio and television stations in the country played the Africa 2015 song at various slots during the day and promised to continue playing it.

