

08 March 2019

## **BDC AND SIR KETUMILE MASIRE FOUNDATION ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS DISCUSSING INCLUSIVITY AND BALANCE, BETTERING BOTSWANA’S HUMAN CAPITAL ECOSYSTEMS**

**Gaborone** – Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) believes that creating opportunities for Botswana men and women to share collaborative and leadership platforms is essential to driving impactful socioeconomic development. In this vein, BDC partnered with the Sir Ketumile Masire Foundation (SKMF) to host stakeholders from a variety of local sectors including the financial, communications, philanthropic and the arts, to share experiences and pertinent views on ways to bridge the gap between culture and metropolitanism in Botswana. Overlooking the capital city from The Tower at the Fairscape Precinct, the business breakfast was hosted in commemoration of International Women’s Day on Friday 08 March 2019.

“It was our pleasure to partner with SKMF to host this engagement as supporting platforms that discuss pressing developmental issues is a key component of our Corporation strategy. Matters of women empowerment and greater inclusion in leadership arenas are important to address since they benefit our whole community. With a greater balance of opportunities available between men and women, we can achieve stronger progress with our national development goals as more minds take part in decision-making across country sectors,” said BDC Acting Managing Director, Mr. Moathodi Lekaukau. He continued, “Botswana has made considerable strides in its history as a middle-income economy. Such milestones achieved include the evidence of women joining leadership platforms across a variety of public and private areas. It is vital, however, that as a nation we do not overlook the remaining challenges still requiring action to see more women play leading roles in more sectors across the socioeconomy.”

The processions of the day included a panel discussion led by the SKMF Chief Executive, Ms. Matshidiso Masire under the theme *Balance for Better*, which was followed by an interactive Question and Answer session.

Panellists of the discussion comprised of the following professionals:

- Leungo Lulu Rasebotsa - Managing Director, Liberty Life Botswana,
- Desmond Lunga – Founder, Men and Boys for Gender Equality,
- Sarah B Mulwa - Founder & President, Now For Them Trust and;
- Game “Zeus” Bantsi – Founder, Do It Yourself Entertainment.

The breakfast talk comes off the back of a long-standing relationship between BDC and SKMF. In line with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy, BDC has supported a number of SKMF initiatives including providing mentoring and sponsorship support at Strategy Planning Workshops and annual fundraising activities. BDC’s CSR strategy entails partnering with organisations, programmes and platforms mandated to empower key demographics in need of strategic support, that including women, people living with

disabilities, youth and orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), to encourage the further participation of these groups in the Botswana economy.

“I would like to thank SKMF for their great efforts especially with creating opportunities for youth and other communities to realise their worth and take part in contributing towards Botswana’s next chapter of success. I commend Ms. Masire and her team for their passion and tireless commitment to this vehicle and we look forward to deepening our relationship ties with SKMF in future activities,” concluded Mr. Lekaukau.

– Ends –

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**NOTES TO THE EDITOR**

**ABOUT SIR KETUMILE MASIRE FOUNDATION**

The Sir Ketumile Masire Foundation was founded in 2007 by the former President of the Republic of Botswana, His Excellency Sir Ketumile and Lady Masire. It draws heavily from Sir Ketumile’s inspiration and experiences as an elder statesman to contribute towards the socio- economic and political developments of the country and the sub- region.

The organisation, very much in line with the Department of Youth’s objectives, coordinates youth activities at a national level aimed at creating an enabling environment for youth to meaningfully participate in the development of the country. The organisation’s primary target audience is young men and women (18 – 35 years of age) from across Botswana, though SKMF does seek to ensure a balanced gender representation amongst its target audience.

As a Non–Governmental Organization, the Foundation relies on donations and sponsorships from the business community, the general public and from fund raising efforts.

**ABOUT BDC**

Botswana Development Corporation Limited, or ‘BDC,’ is the country’s main agency for commercial and industrial development. Established in 1970, under the Companies Act , BDC is a company Limited by Shares and fully owned by the Government of Botswana. BDC is mandated to provide, facilitate and support



financing of commercially viable enterprises that contribute towards building a sustainable and diversified Botswana economy; to stimulate the growth of the private sector; to invest in the region and internationally; whilst generating wealth for the Shareholder.

The Corporation invests in commercially viable projects across all sectors of the economy except large-scale mining. These include Energy, Manufacturing, Industry, Property, Services, Tourism, Innovation and Technology as well as Agriculture locally. Throughout, BDC intends to promote best practices in business, governance and environmental standards in the funds or companies they choose to invest in. BDC conducts its business on a commercial basis and exercises special care and regard to economic and commercial merits.