

11 April 2024

BDC AND THE FAIRSCAPE COMMUNITY DONATE TO RAMOTSWA CENTRE FOR THE DEAF

Ramotswa - As part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Botswana Development Corporation ('BDC') in partnership with the Fairscap community have created a beautiful culture of giving back to those who are in need through charitable deeds. These collaborative efforts pooled financial and human resources from the Fairscap community to meet the needs and demands of the learning environment at Ramotswa Centre for Deaf Education (RCDE).

Ramotswa Centre for Deaf Education (RCDE) is a special school that provides a stimulation programme, which allows for learners to be exposed to sign language at a tender age. The programme offers education in line with Early Childhood Education Policy.

On the 11th of April 2024, BDC joined the Ramotswa Centre for the Deaf at their school Spelling Bee competition, which was held under the theme **"Enhancing Social Interaction and Developing Cognitive Structures with Sign Language."** The initiative has a profound impact on learners at the centre, empowering them by providing a platform for showcasing their skills, boosting their confidence and self-esteem. Through linguistic challenges, it fosters language development, promoting vital skills like spelling and vocabulary comprehension. The emphasis on social interaction cultivates camaraderie within the learner community, promoting a sense of belonging. Additionally, by highlighting the importance of sign language, the initiative advocates for its acceptance and integration, contributing to a more inclusive society.

In support of RCDE's efforts towards a more inclusive learning environment, BDC presented donations collected from the Fairscap community. These donations, comprising toiletries, clothing, food items, toys, and stationery, not only address immediate needs but also contribute to creating a nurturing and supportive educational environment for the children. This underscores the power of community involvement in fostering inclusivity and making a tangible difference in the lives of those at the centre.

Ms Boipelo Gaoetswe, Head of Human Capital and Administration and CSR representative at BDC stated, "Giving back to the communities in which we operate is an integral part of BDC's mandate. As the government's primary investment arm, the Corporation must demonstrate social responsibility and garner community confidence. Initiatives such as these underscore BDC's commitment to broader social issues, beyond profit margins.

Ms Gaoetswe also expressed appreciation for the commitment shown by the Fairscap tenants in implementing impactful CSR initiatives. "These partnerships facilitate a comprehensive approach to addressing social and environmental challenges and we look forward to further amplify our impact," she added.

As BDC continues its journey of economic transformation and inclusion, it acknowledges the expectation to contribute not only to wealth generation but also to addressing pressing societal challenges. Through its CSR programme, BDC supports initiatives that empower young learners with disabilities to embrace lifelong learning and adapt to a changing world. Moreover, it recognises the importance of building sustainable community relationships and investments, contributing to citizen development and empowerment. Prioritising sustainability and longevity, particularly in programmes supporting vulnerable communities, remains a core focus for BDC's actions. --Ends--

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

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 funding of commercially viable enterprises that contribute towards building a sustainable and diversified Botswana economy; 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 diamond 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.