

BOTSWANA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S '53 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE': RESTORING HOPE AND SUSTAINABILITY AT GAMODUBU CHILDCARE TRUST

Gaborone - In honor of its 53rd anniversary, the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) launched the the "53 Hours of Community Service" initiative. This initiative embodies the BDC's commitment to community development, aiming to execute innovative and impactful projects across various villages in Botswana.

As part of this initiative, BDC staff identified projects aligned with values of innovation, inclusivity, and relevance, focusing on aiding different communities. One such collaboration involved the partnership with the Gamodubu Childcare Trust (GCT), an independent Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) home founded in 2005 by Ms. Shirley Madikwe. Situated in the Kweneng District, near Gaborone, GCT hosts 92 resident children and relies on donations for its operations, providing essential services like food, education, counselling, and support.

However, challenges arose due to the cessation of a poultry project caused by air pollution from a nearby landfill. Responding to the Trust's needs, the BDC staff committed 53 hours to reviving the poultry project. This included repairing infrastructure, providing financial management training, and furnishing necessary equipment and supplies, providing layers and requisite feed.

At the handover ceremony, on the 1st of December 2023, Ms. Boitshwarelo Lebang-Kgetse, Head of Corporate Affairs at BDC, highlighted the significance of such initiatives. She emphasised the Corporation's commitment to broader social issues beyond profit margins. Lebang-Kgetse stressed the importance of corporate social responsibility (CSR), demonstrating the Corporation's engagement with the communities it serves.

The BDC's CSR mandate focuses on entrepreneurship promotion, support for people with disabilities, and the nurturing of local talent in arts, music, and culture. The initiative underscores BDC's dedication to impactful benevolent activities aligned with Botswana's developmental goals.

Furthermore, as BDC remains dedicated to economic progress, it recognises its role in addressing societal challenges. The "53 Hours of Community Service" initiative exemplifies BDC's commitment to engaging its staff in giving back to communities in need.

In conclusion, the BDC reaffirms its responsibility to foster sustainable community relationships, contribute to citizen development, and empower vulnerable communities. The commitment to sustaining impactful programs, particularly those aiding vulnerable communities, remains a top priority for the Corporation.

The "53 Hours of Community Service" initiative not only signifies BDC's celebration of its legacy but also its ongoing dedication to shaping a more inclusive and prosperous future for Botswana – **Ends –**

For more information, please contact the following:

Boitshwarelo Lebang-Kgetse

Head - Corporate Affairs

Tel: +267 365 1339

Email : boitshwarelo@bdc.bw

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 Manufacturing, Services, Tourism & Hospitality, Energy, Property, 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.