

KINDLING BRIGHTER FUTURES: BDC'S CSR INITIATIVES IGNITE LIFELONG LEARNING

Gaborone- Botswana Development Corporation ("BDC"), committed to its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), continues its unwavering dedication to supporting education and lifelong learning. Demonstrating its commitment, the corporation has extended a helping hand to Nata Senior Secondary School and the Dyslexia & Social Support Services Botswana, aiming to empower individuals to embrace lifelong learning and adapt to an ever-changing world.

Following a fire outbreak at one of the form 4 boys' hostels at Nata Senior Secondary school, about hundred students lost their belongings. The Corporation together with its employees raised a wholesome **P55 000.00** for the replacement of items which were lost to the fire, including books, clothes, toiletries, bedding, mattresses, curtains, and school uniform.

Moreover, BDC has donated P20,000 worth of tablets to the Dyslexia & Social Support Services Botswana. Situated in Mmatseta village, this organisation offers remedial classes for children facing learning disabilities, particularly dyslexia. The tablets will play a pivotal role in enhancing the learning experience, providing audio-visual aids for students grappling with dyslexia, thereby improving their educational journey.

Recognising the prevalence of dyslexia, impacting 20% of students across schools of all age groups, as well as adults in the workplace, BDC emphasises its commitment to support inclusion. Dyslexia, a learning disorder involving difficulties in reading due to challenges in identifying speech sounds and relating them to letters and words, affects areas of the brain responsible for language processing.

As Botswana's leading investment agency, propelling commercial and industrial transformation in the economy, BDC firmly believes in contributing significantly to the communities it operates within. The Corporation's CSR mandate is focused on initiatives that promote and support entrepreneurship, advocate for the inclusion of people living with disabilities, showcase local talent through music, arts, and cultural activities, and champion impactful benevolent activities.

As the engine of economic growth and development, it is also BDC's responsibility to build sustainable community relationships and investments; and to contribute towards citizen development and empowerment. Driving sustainability and longevity, especially for programmes which support vulnerable communities, shall continue to be a priority for action. **–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.