

## **BDC 53 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE: EMPOWERING BONTLENG COMMUNITY**

**Gaborone** - Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) shines a light on community impact with its '53 Hours of Community Service' initiative. The Corporation launched the initiative in celebration of 53 years of impact. The initiative was formed to encourage each staff member to spend 53 hours of their personal time doing community work. In yet another show of dedication towards the cause, and as a strategic move to promote safety and accessibility, BDC's staff installed eco-friendly LED floodlights and a ramp at Bontleeng Kgotla, a central hub encompassing Fairgrounds, Extension 14, White City, and Babusi Ward in Gaborone.

Through this initiative, BDC aims to promote climate solutions, sustainable infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and clean energy as part of its sustainability strategy. The installation of these solar lamps is intended to demonstrate the capability of renewable energy, particularly solar power. The project is tapping into a sustainable means of supplying power to the community with the potential to influence countrywide developments.

The Corporation also ramped up inclusivity by donating a disability ramp to allow those living with disabilities and the elderly to access the Kgotla facilities, recognising the importance of ensuring that individuals living with disabilities and the elderly have equal access to public spaces. "We believe that as we grow, so must all segments of our society – especially those who are vulnerable and most challenged," said the CSR Committee Chairperson, Ms Boitshwarelo Lebang-Kgetse. This move also contributes to the overall well-being of the community by fostering a sense of belonging and participation for all its members.

By actively involving disabled individuals in community activities, we pave the way for a more equitable and diverse society, where everyone's contributions are valued and acknowledged. Over the years, BDC has initiated various projects to support people living with disabilities. In 2008, an investment of P800,000 saw the construction of a classroom block for the Botswana Society for the Deaf (BSD) Francistown Centre. In 2013, the Corporation took on a P1.57 million building project, erecting a classroom for the Tonota Special Needs School. In 2016, BDC adopted the Ramotswa Centre for the Deaf and generously contributed a 17-seater Mercedes Benz Sprinter Minibus to the center, valued at around P215,000. The Corporation also supported the Pudulogong Rehab Trust Walk initiative, which aimed to raise funds to improve a music room at Pudulogong Rehabilitation and Development Trust for the Blind, to empower those who are visually impaired. In a more recent endeavor, the Corporation donated tablets to the Dyslexia & Social Support Services Botswana to enhance the learning experience by providing audio-visual aid for students grappling with dyslexia.

To BDC, delivering Shareholder value also entails supporting communities across Botswana that pioneer innovative developments. The Corporation aims to achieve this by engaging in CSR initiatives that are aligned with the below pillars:

- Promote and support entrepreneurship;
- Support the inclusion of people living with disabilities;
- To promote and support education;
- Promote and expose local talent through music, arts, and cultural activities;
- As well as any benevolent activities that the Corporation deems impactful.

As the government's main investment arm, BDC is increasingly expected to contribute not only to wealth generation but also to solve some of the country's pressing challenges. It is also BDC's responsibility to build sustainable community relationships and investments; and to contribute towards citizen development and empowerment. The '53 hours of Community Service' initiative continues to bring impact to communities in need.

In Closing, Ms Lebang-Kgetse extended gratitude to the BDC team for their strong support of this initiative as this aligns with the essence of inclusive growth in progress toward Vision 2036, where everyone should have equal opportunities to reach their full potential and make meaningful contributions. **–Ends –**

**For more information, please contact the following:**

**Boitshwarelo Lebang-Kgetse**

Head - Corporate Affairs

Tel: +267 365 1339

Email: [boitshwarelo@bdc.bw](mailto: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 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.