

June 2016

For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

Prof O. Totolo inaugurated as Fellow of the Botswana Academy of Sciences (BAS)

Professor Otlogetswe Totolo has been deemed worthy to be inducted as fellow of the Botswana Academy of Sciences (BAS) during the 10th AAS General Assembly hosted under the theme: “*Academies as the voice of science*”, by the Government of Botswana through the Botswana Institute for Research and Innovation (BITRI) in collaboration with the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BUIST), held on the 21st to 23rd June 2016, in Kasane.

Botswana recently launched its Academy of Sciences (BAS) which was established as a fledgship academy that provides Botswana scientists with a national platform to join the world society of scientists such as The African Academy of Sciences (AAS), an African organisation that embraces the most eminent scientists in Africa. AAS has recognised 330 Fellows who are proven science, technology and innovation leaders, policy advisors and thinkers, and of the four of the 330 Fellows are Nobel Prize winners.

Botswana will benefit immensely from the objectives of BAS which are as follows;

- To strengthen the global position and role of scientific research performed by Botswana scientists;
- To advise the government on the quality of science in Botswana, as well as on scientific aspects of social and economic issues in Botswana;
- To provide information on science and build support for science by the general public in Botswana;
- To advise the government on all issues related to science, teaching and science education in the country;
- To ensure that in Botswana research is conducted in areas or on questions of special importance and relevance to science or the nation;

The 10th General Assembly was officially opened by His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Seretse Khama Ian Khama, the President of the Republic of Botswana who was inaugurated as an Honorary Fellow of the AAS. The conference was graced by not only established fellows, but younger affiliates under the age of 40 years. Officially opening the conference, His Excellency President Khama said academies were vehicles through which Africans could provide solutions faced by their countries instead of relying on other nations from afar to solve problems for them. He stated that he hoped young people from Botswana could also get similar opportunities to be mentored by senior fellows. “Attracting women to science has become a major priority globally and to many governments on the continent including us here in Botswana,” he said.