

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

BIUST VICE CHANCELLOR

PROFESSOR OTLOGETSWE TOTOLO

AT MASUNGA VILLAGE

TUESDAY 23rd AUGUST 2022

1. Minister of Communication, Knowledge and Technology, Hon. Thulagano Merafe Segokgo;
2. Minister of Education and Skills Development: Hon Dr Douglas Letsholathebe;
3. Member of Parliament, Tati West, Hon. Simon Mavange Moabi;
4. Kgosi Maruje III Thabo Masunga;
5. All Dikgosi, here present;
6. Council Chairperson: Hon Farai Bonyongo
7. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Professor Nelson Torto;
8. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, Ms Mariam Maroba;
9. Acting District Commissioner, North East, Ms Itani Mathumo;
10. Vice Chancellors of all Tertiary Institution.
11. Chief Executive Officers of Parastatals here present;
12. Deputy Vice Chancellors present;
13. Deans of Universities here present;
14. Captains of Industry, here present;
15. Heads of Departments;
16. Members of the Press;
17. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dumelang

1. It is with utmost delight that I take part at this opportune event marking the official opening of the National Science Week (NSW) 2022 here in this beautiful village of Masunga. The NSW commemoration is informed by the United Nation (UN) Agenda 2030 and the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063. The initiative derives from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) initiative wherein the SADC Science and Technology Ministers in 2008 resolved to commemorate the notion for a week once per annum.
2. This year's National Science Week Theme of "**STEM – Advancing Life for Sustainable Development**" is fitting as it espouses a future that is led by inventions and innovations indeed for a premise Sustainable Development. It is undeniable that the world today views STEM education as a key driver to the socio-economic success and sustainability in Development.
3. Distinguished Guests, the main goal of this NSW 2022 is to celebrate STEM success stories across all fields in the country, foster interest in STEM subjects and pronounce the relevance of STEM in our everyday lives. The event seeks to stimulate ongoing public dialogue and activities on STEM education, acknowledge challenges whilst simultaneously soliciting feedback from the STEM ecosystem on potential solutions. The

main aim is to inspire the next generation of STEM innovators and position Botswana where she can be a participant and not a spectator in the STEM race to excellence.

4. The NSW objectives, amongst others, are to provide a platform to celebrate, share excitement and showcase STEM innovations from the ecosystem, namely from learners, communities, industry, government, and universities; raise awareness, appreciation and understanding of the significance of STEM to Botswana's national economic transformation and sustainable development and promote Indigenous Knowledge in highlighting opportunities for its potential enhancement through STEM.

5. The activities for this week will, among others, feature a seminar on ***The relevance and significance of RSTI in achieving national, regional, and international development goals***, which will set the tone for the week unfolding. Other highlights will include a tour of and lecture on Domboshaba tourist site; Robotics and Coding boot-camp including Hackathon & Makeathon; Glass Blowing demonstrations; Astronomy demonstration; Star Gazing; Exhibition of appropriate agricultural technologies; Science in the Military; Educational exhibitions; Analysis of national and regional STEM ecosystem and opportunities seminar;

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) Products; Medicinal Plants, innovators, militia and many more, the list goes on.

6. Ladies and gentlemen, let us all look forward to the week ahead with as much excitement as I do as we anticipate thought-provoking discussions and engagements.

7. At this juncture, before I retire to my seat let me take this opportunity to launch the motor vehicle initiated by the able minded Innovator, Mr. Batshani Sekoto who is the brain behind the vehicle. This vehicle was handed to BIUST in 2020 to the Department of Mechanical, Energy & Industrial Engineering. Today I take this opportunity to hand it over witnessed by the entire stakeholder community. You are welcome to view it and engage him during the course of the week.

Master of ceremonies I thank you.

PULA!

PULA!

- E N D -