



Republic of Botswana

SPEECH

BY

HON. Thulagano Segokgo

MINISTER OF

COMMUNICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE, AND TECHNOLOGY

ON THE OCCASION

OF THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE BOTSWANA

**SATELLITE GROUND STATION (BOTSWANA SAT-1
PROJECT)**

VENUE: BOTSAT 1 Ground Station, BIUST, Palapye

DATE: 29TH November 2022

SALUTATIONS

1. It is a great pleasure for me this morning to be part of this historic occasion which marks the official launch of the Botswana Satellite Ground Communication Station by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Botswana Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi.
2. Let me acknowledge and thank my colleague, Hon Dr Douglas Letsholathebe, who when he had the responsibility portfolio for research, science, and technology, had the courage to support BIUST on what has become Botswana's premier technology project. As I have now taken over the responsibility for RST, in the spirit of Onegov and collective responsibility, I see us working together to advance Botswana's agenda through the big data endeavors amongst others.
3. It is worth noting that the Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology supports several key national projects at the Botswana International University of Science & Technology (BIUST) such as the one we are here today for, namely the Botswana first ever Satellite; the BotSAT-1.

4. Your Excellency, allow me to list some of the projects that are undertaken by BIUST and supported by MCKT through our RST agenda. These include the:
- a) BOTSAT-1;
 - b) Square Kilometer Array (SKA/AVN);
 - c) Strategies for Managing Covid-19: Statistical and Mathematical Modelling Approaches;
 - d) OR Tambo Africa Research Chair Initiative;
 - e) Development of Novel Nano-Engineered Reagents for Mineral Froth Flotation;
 - f) Coal Beneficiation for the Metallurgical Industry;
 - g) Extraction of Cobalt and Nickel from BCL slag metallurgical waste;
 - h) Co-creation of a community-based water, Sanitation and hygiene model with children and youth; and
 - i) Sustainable well-being through rapid detection remediation and stakeholder awareness of contaminants in environments impacted by mining activities;
5. Your Excellency, the Botswana Satellite will assist the Government in embracing technology as an enabler of socio-economic development and will promote digitization across both private and public sectors.

6. I would like to the Botswana Satellite will assist the Government in embracing technology as an enabler of socio-economic development and will promote digitization across both private and public sectors
7. The ground station will ensure availability of real-time environmental data that will be used to generate information for expeditious decision-making to enable socio-economic development.
8. From the Ground Communication Station, the next phases are the building of the cleanroom in which the first Botswana satellite will be assembled and tested for reliability in the harsh environment of outer space. This will be followed by the launching of the satellite in 2023 at one of the well-established international launch pads.
9. I would like to congratulate BIUST for the achievement of this significant milestone of the launch of the Botswana Satellite Ground Communication station. I thank you for undertaking this project timeously and training young Batswana to lead the BOTSAT-1 project.
10. In closing, I would like to pledge my commitment and support for the BOTSAT-1 as I will continue constantly engaging BIUST to appreciate progress.

I thank you all for your attention.

PULA!