

VOTE OF THANKS

BY

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**VICE CHANCELLOR
BOTSWANA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY (BIUST)**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING OF THE BOTSWANA SATELLITE
GROUND COMMUNICATION STATION (BOTSAT-1 PROJECT)**

1. Distinguished guests, it is my proud privilege to propose a vote of thanks to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Botswana,
① Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi for his continued support in realizing Botswana's dream of being a knowledge economy. BIUST pledges to continue assuming its rightful role in driving the national transformation agenda and contributing to the creation of a knowledge-based economy as a premier research-intensive University.
2. Your Excellency, it is worth noting that the University has been operational for ten years and we are elated to announce that we have thus far graduated almost 2000 industry ready graduates who are contributing to the economic development of this country, some being entrepreneurs. Our last tracer study indicated 65 percent employment rate within six months after graduation.
3. Moreover, I would like to cease this opportunity to thank His Excellency, the Former President, Dr Festus G. Mogae for his unwavering support in the 10 years BIUST has been in existence as our Chancellor. Rre Mogae would have liked to be with us today at

this very important event, but he could not make it. He is aware of this project and is very proud that the Ground Communication Station is being launched today. We shall brief him accordingly in the next coming days. It is through Rre Mogae's support that the University has grown as a catalyst for innovation and transformation.

4. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Honourable Dr. Douglas Letsholathebe, Minister for Education and Skills Development, who also could not be with us today due to circumstances beyond his control, and our Project Sponsor, Honourable Thulagano Segokgo, Minister for Communications, Knowledge and Technology for recognizing the capacity of BIUST and entrusting us with the delivery of such a mammoth project. Without your continued support we would not be here today celebrating the achievement of this milestone.

5. Ladies and gentlemen, the University has cutting-edge projects across various economic sectors in which we have partnered with the Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology and I am delighted that this partnership will generate business and

commercial activities, as well as supporting industries, thus creating jobs, skills, and technology transfer.

6. Distinguished Guests, the organization of events of this magnitude are the result of close cooperation among several institutions and individuals. It is my great pleasure to express, on behalf of BIUST, the organizers and on my own behalf, a deep appreciation for the support and encouragement provided by the Botswana International University of Science & Technology (BIUST) Research team and technical partners who worked tirelessly from conceptualization, official kickstart to today's event to commissioning the ground satellite.
7. Ladies and Gentlemen, this project will facilitate us reach our mandate of existence of being a home of research and innovation as already we have scientists carrying out research related to BOTSAT-1. This will be facilitated by their ability to conceptualize and build the ground communication station and proceed to build a cubesat which will be launched in space by 2023.

8. It would be amiss if I do not thank the construction companies that offered exceptional services to us. The construction of ground communication station ^{alone} has generated and boosted many allied industries in Palapye and surrounding areas companies at a cost of BWP1.6 million. This trend will continue as there will be regular maintenance to the ground communication station facilities.
9. Distinguished guests, as an appropriate end to the inaugural proceedings, I wish to thank our key Stakeholders, Council members, our Strategic Partners, and all here present to witness this historic event of the Official Commissioning of The Botswana Satellite Ground Communication Station) BOTSAT-1 Project.
10. To the media here present, a special thank you to you all. It is through you that we connect to the rest of the world.

I thank you and nelwang ke pula betsho!