



BIUST CELEBRATE INCREASED GRADUATE OUTPUT

The Botswana International University of Science and Technology has celebrated the graduation of the largest group of students from its science, engineering and technology programmes delivered at the institution since its existence a decade ago.

The eighth BIUST graduation ceremony was recently held at the University campus in Palapye under the theme, “Re-Setting, Re-Adjusting, and Re-Claiming: Driving Change through Science, Technology & Entrepreneurship”.

This year’s graduation ceremony recorded a 30.5% output increase compared to last year. A total of 348 students of BIUST’s Class of 2023 at both undergraduate and graduate levels were conferred their degrees compared to 266 from Class of 2022.

Professor Otlogetswe Totolo, Vice-Chancellor of BIUST, who shared welcome remarks at the graduation ceremony, said: “It is with immense

pleasure and pride that I extend my warmest congratulations to each of you who will be graduating from BIUST. This day marks a significant milestone in your academic journey and is a testament to your dedication, hard work, and perseverance.”

He revealed that the University tracer study has shown that at least 48% of BIUST graduates are employed within six months after graduation. BIUST Alumni are employed globally, with quite a number of them being entrepreneurs.

Professor Totolo said BIUST has equipped graduates with the necessary tools to make a positive impact on the world. “The challenges we face as a global community are immense, and your generation has a vital role to play in addressing them. I do not doubt that you will go on to achieve great things and make us all proud,” he noted.

In this issue.....

BIUST CELEBRATE INCREASED GRADUATE OUTPUT.....	1
EDITOR'S NOTE	2
GOVERNMENT PLEDGE TO SUPPORT BIUST GRADUATES	3
DR. MOGAE HONOURED WITH DOCTORAL DEGREE	5
BIUST RANKED AMONGST TOP 20 UNIVERSITIES IN SSA.....	6



By Wandipa Gachala



EDITOR'S NOTE

In this September edition of our newsletter, we are thrilled to share the momentous and historic occasion where the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) conferred a Doctoral Degree in Science upon the esteemed former President of Botswana and BIUST Chancellor, Dr. Festus Gontebanye Mogae. This recognition stands as a testament to the remarkable journey of BIUST, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

The highlight of this grand celebration was undoubtedly the Eighth graduation ceremony, where BIUST honored its Class of 2023. This ceremony was a profound testament to BIUST's unwavering commitment to excellence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. The legacy of Dr. Mogae's involvement with BIUST and his contributions to the institution make this moment truly historic.

Over the past decade, BIUST has not only played a pivotal role in transforming Botswana's economy into a knowledge-driven powerhouse but has also made its presence felt on the global stage. The dedication and collaboration of students, staff, alumni, and partners have been instrumental in driving change through teaching, research, innovation, and community engagement. The achievements of BIUST graduates, who continue to make significant contributions to both industry and entrepreneurship, exemplify the university's mission.

As we celebrate BIUST's 10th anniversary, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the institution on a decade of excellence and progress. We eagerly anticipate many more years of success, innovation, and transformation as BIUST continues to shape the future of Botswana and the world through science, technology, and education. The journey has just begun, and we are excited to be part of the ongoing story of BIUST's growth and impact.

We profusely appreciate all those who contributed to the success of this edition and plead with you to share with us any information that you deem necessary to barutir@biust.ac.bw and gachalaw@biust.ac.bw.

Enjoy!!!

The BIUST valedictorian Eugene Tefo Letsamao, a graduate of Bachelor of Chemical Engineering who was elated with his meritorious achievement, said BIUST has armed him with three symbols of success that he carries into the competitive global space of work and entrepreneurship.

“First, I am leaving with a Bachelors’ Degree in Chemical Engineering. Second, I have been awarded the title of valedictorian as a symbol of my hard work and perseverance. And success number three, I have recently signed a contract of employment with Genesis HB Botswana, and soon I am commencing my traineeship at HB Headquarters in Antwerp, Belgium,” he revealed.

The valedictorian said his journey at BIUST was far from smooth sailing, but that was a journey he anticipated on arrival some five years ago, ready to persevere and overcome all the challenges to attain his degree.

“To my fellow graduates, this marks the end of a journey we started five years ago, and some four years ago, but at the same time it is the start of an even more challenging and exciting journey of our lives,” the valedictorian said before he signed out with congratulating his fellow class of 2023.

BIUST has thus far produced over 2,500 market-relevant Scientists, Technologists and Engineers.

Government Pledge to Support BIUST Graduates



Honourable Letsholathebe pledges support to BIUST graduates

The Minister of Education and Skills Development, Dr Douglas Letsholathebe, has declared that the government of Botswana is committed to providing support to the Botswana International University of Science and Technology graduates through various initiatives and funding opportunities to embark on the path of entrepreneurship.

When speaking at the BIUST eighth graduation ceremony that was held recently at the BIUST campus. It was held under the theme, “Re-Setting, Re-Adjusting, Re-Claiming: Driving Change Through Science, Technology & Entrepreneurship”.

The Minister said the government has put in place an array of initiatives for the graduates to tap into and contribute to driving change and shaping the future of Botswana.

“We recognise that your potential is not only in securing jobs but also in creating them and contributing to our nation's economic growth and development,” Honourable Letsholathebe said.

Through various initiatives and funding opportunities, the government have established programs to support start-ups, offering grants, mentoring, and access to resources.

He said these, are to encourage graduates to engage in ground-breaking research and development projects that address real-world challenges, while also contributing to the growth of the nation's knowledge-based economy.

Among other initiatives, the Minister mentioned the Botswana Digital & Innovation Hub (BDIH) which has been instrumental in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, the Botswana Innovation Fund (BIF) which was established to promote and facilitate collaborations between academia, entrepreneurs, public officials and other citizens, and Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI).

BITRI is mandated with ‘conducting needs-based research and development in focused areas and to ‘identify, develop and/or adapt appropriate technology solutions that provide sustainable innovative solutions through co-creation and collaboration in line with national priorities and needs of Batswana.

Furthermore, he said the government is actively collaborating with private sector partners and international organizations to provide training, mentorship, and networking opportunities to young entrepreneurs. The Minister also encouraged the

graduates to set their sights on the international job market, engage with the international community, and represent Botswana proudly on the global stage.

“BIUST has equipped you with a world-class education, cutting-edge research opportunities, and a diverse learning environment. You have gained not only technical expertise but also valuable problem-solving skills, creativity, adaptability, and a global perspective. Embrace the world as your oyster, and don't hesitate to explore international career paths,” he said.

In closing, the Minister commended the faculty and leadership of BIUST for their dedication and commitment to excellence, research, and innovation that has propelled BIUST to greater heights and placed the Palapye-based University at the forefront of the latest university rankings. “Your unwavering dedication to advancing knowledge and nurturing the talents of our students is truly commendable,” Honourable Letsholathebe applauded the BIUST leadership.

The BIUST Council member, Mr Ketane Sithole recognised the Ministry of Education and the Botswana Government for their steadfast commitment to education. He said the government's visionary leadership and investment in education will make a great contribution to transforming the lives of these graduates.

He also paid tribute to the parents and guardians of our graduates. “Your love, encouragement, and sacrifices have paved the way for your children's success. Your support has been instrumental in nurturing the talents and abilities of our graduates. Today, we share in your pride as you witness your sons and daughters take this monumental step towards a brighter future,” Mr Sithole said.



BIUST graduates

Dr. Mogae Honoured with Doctoral Degree



The Botswana International University of Science and Technology has honoured the third President of Botswana and former BIUST Chancellor Dr Festus Gontebanye Mogae through the conferment of a Doctoral Degree in Science.

Dr Mogae was honoured at BIUST's eighth graduation ceremony held recently at the University campus in Palapye. The accolade is the first of its kind offered by the University.

The BIUST Vice-Chancellor Otlogetswe Totolo said the conferment of the Honorary Doctoral Degree in Science was befitting for Dr Mogae for his enormous and remarkable contribution to the establishment of this university was remarkable.

"This is a well-deserved honour for our founding Chancellor who during his tenure never tired from giving us wise counsel and guidance," he said.

Adding that, "BIUST confers honorary degrees on persons who reflect the honours bestowed on them to a diversity of the community nationally, regionally, and beyond."

Dr Mogae had an enormous impact throughout his career until he became the President of Botswana. He had a high impact on fighting the HIV scourge by seeking medical science and other avenues. The country is winning because of Rre Mogae's commitment to using science to fight the scourge, the BIUST Vice Chancellor said.

"He did not only fight HIV in the country of Botswana but also regionally because he launched 'Champions for an HIV-Free Generation', a group consisting of former African Presidents and other influential personalities aimed at strengthening efforts to prevent the spread of HIV-AIDS in Africa."

Dr Mogae was also acknowledged by various speakers at a previous event that celebrated the University's 10th anniversary which built up to the graduation ceremony. Mr Edwin Elias recognised the pivotal role the former President of the Republic of Botswana played in setting up BIUST.

"His dream was for the University to add impetus to the quest for developing the human capital, especially in specialised areas such as engineering, science and technology," He said.

To continue the legacy of the founders of the institution, Mr Elias pledged that his team would continue to harness collective efforts and resources to ensure the University achieves its mission of assisting the Government and Botswana in transforming the nation's economy from a resources-based to a knowledge-based one.

Palapye Village Chief Kgosi Martha Lebang also acknowledged the contributions of Dr Mogae. "I would like to pay tribute to you, Your Excellency, the former President of the Republic of Botswana and the Founding BIUST Chancellor, Dr Festus Gontebanye



In its decade of existence, Botswana International University of Science and Technology has achieved a massive milestone after it received recognition among the top-performing universities in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

From a list of 88 universities across 20 Sub-Saharan countries, BIUST is ranked at position 20 and the top in the country by the Times Higher Education (THE) Sub-Saharan University Rankings, released on the 26th of June 2023.

Over the last decade, BIUST has garnered global recognition through the development of a strong academic value chain, comprising teaching and learning, research and innovation, and engagement

for development, catapulting the University to be one of the key drivers for transforming Botswana's economy from a resource-based to acknowledge-driven economy.

The research-intensive university, which carries a mandate of helping the country produce Scientists, Technologists and Engineers, has since produced over 2,500 market-relevant graduates.

"To date, at least 48% of BIUST graduates are employed within 6 months after graduation. BIUST Alumni are employed globally, with quite a number of them being entrepreneurs," the University Vice-Chancellor Professor Otlogetswe Totolo said after revealing the BIUST's recognition from THE

Sub-Saharan University Rankings

Amongst some of its many achievements in its decade-long presence, BIUST hosts the first Botswana Satellite Ground communication station, the University has been awarded a 1.4 million Euros, grant funded by the European Commission through the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), for a project titled "Pan-Africa Planetary and Space Science Network.

BIUST was appointed a National Coordinator for the African Very-long interferometer Network (AVN) project of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), the largest ground-based astronomy project ever undertaken.

BIUST is top among the ten Research Chairs from research-based institutions across Africa who won the five-year research fund. The O.R. Tambo Africa Research Chairs Initiative (ORTACHI).

BIUST is to also host the SADC Satellite Receiver to enhance Botswana's Geo-Information System through Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) project aimed at supporting African decision-makers and planners in designing and implementing national, regional and continental policies and development plans towards sustainable development, thereby advancing the socioeconomic progress and well-being of African populations towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to mention a few.

The Vice-chancellor said, to attain its milestones, BIUST had not been an isolated entity but rather an integral part of society, industry, and the global sphere. He said the collaboration between universities and industry is one of the critical drivers of the transformation of the global economy.

In closing, he said, BIUST has purposefully taken strategic measures to establish enduring and meaningful partnerships. These alliances have enabled our university to actively bridge the gap between the industry needs and our graduates, continually improve our academic offerings, identify challenges that could be addressed effectively through applied research and subsequently engage in commercialisation of the research output.



10th Anniversary

BIUST 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Official Launch Ceremony Date: 18 th September 2023	Symposium & Exhibitions 18 th - 19 th September 2023
Panel Discussions Date: 20 th September 2023	Outreach Programme Date: 21 st September 2023
8th Graduation Ceremony Date: 22 nd September 2023	

18th - 22nd Sep 2023 | 0730hrs - 1700hrs | BIUST Campus, Palapye



Theme: 'BIUST: A decade of driving change through teaching, research, innovation and engagement'

Powered by

