

**WELCOME SPEECH**

**BY**

**THE VICE CHANCELLOR**

**BOTSWANA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE &  
TECHNOLOGY**

**PROFESSOR OTLOGETSWE TOTOLO**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE**

**MEETING WITH THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT'S  
COORDINATING OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
10 MAY 2023**

- Salutations
- Mr Phinda Khame- Chief Disability Officer - Ministry for State President
- Mr Ookeditse Johannes - Special Education -Ministry of Education and Skills Development

1. It is a great pleasure and honour to welcome your team to Botswana International University of Science and Technology. We feel greatly honoured that regardless of your busiest schedule, you made time for us.

2. In our strive for an exceptional student experience, we crave to promote equal opportunities for students with disabilities hence our reaching out to your Office.

3. We presently have 59 registered students with special needs of which 19 are students with disabilities. Since inception, BIUST has graduated 5 students with disabilities. All these 5 are employed.

4. Regardless of our milestones, we encounter challenges such as:

- Limited resources - (both financial and human)

- Inaccessible and unsuitable infrastructure e.g laboratories, workshops, classrooms, halls of residence, some offices
- Lack of space and assistive technology
- Lack of self-disclosure of status by students with disabilities

5. The University has made deliberate efforts to improve the situation through the following:

- Appointment of one (1) Special Needs Officer
- Appointment of two (2) Temporary Postgraduate Special Needs Assistants
- Continuous lobbying for both financial and human resources.
- Continued awareness raising by the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Life
- Making ends meet with limited resources

6. Our humble requests to the Coordinator's Office are as follows:

- Mobilisation of resources
- Promotion of mutually beneficial partnerships for both of us.

- Any other assistance you may offer

Thank you.