



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

## **VOTE OF THANKS**

**KGOSI MARTHA LEBANG**

**MOTSHWARALELA BOGOSI JWA PALAPYE**

**AT THE BIUST 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY**

**UNDER THE THEME**

**'BIUST: A DECADE OF DRIVING CHANGE THROUGH  
TEACHING, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND ENGAGEMENT'**

**DATE: 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**VENUE: BIUST CAMPUS, MULTIPURPOSE HALL**

---

## SALUTATIONS

### KE LE DUMEDISA KA PULA!

1. It is a great pleasure and distinct honour for me to have been accorded this opportunity to make a vote of thanks on behalf of **morafe wa Palapye**, and indeed on my own behalf and all stakeholders here today.
2. Let me take this opportunity to thank our host, Botswana International University of Science & Technology (BIUST), for hosting all stakeholders who are instrumental in the success of the University and the warm hospitality shown to us and other guests.
3. 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 Mogae for the tremendous job you did in the establishment of this University. **Rraetsho re go leboga go menagane!** Your contribution in steering the development of this country cannot go unnoticed.

4. Honourable Onneetse Ramogapi, our member of Parliament, let me thank you always advocating for the development of Palapye and for supporting BIUST. Indeed, your efforts are appreciated.
5. **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**, let me also thank the BIUST Council Chairman and his council members for the tremendous work done in overseeing the activities and operations of the institution on behalf of the Government. Your shared ultimate and collective responsibility for all the transactions of the University, although you are not engaged in its day-to-day management and operation is evident based on the University's success stories.
6. BIUST Vice Chancellor, Professor Otlogetswe Totolo, your staunch, diligent and highly strategic visionary of displaying the true warm colours of a veracious and results oriented leader have born fruits, leading to today's momentous occasion. You have been resilient and persevered for the success of this university despite all the challenges you continue to face. To date you proved to be the champion of academic excellence. I wish you strength, focus, and abundant success in steering BIUST to new heights.

7. To BIUST staff and students, In the face of seemingly never-ending challenges, during the past 10 years all of you demonstrated creativity, resiliency, and perseverance in ensuring BIUST achieve its mandate. Universities are ultimately about its community. Thank you for continuing to step up to make a difference.
8. Directors of Ceremony, Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the graduating Class of 2023! Go out there and make us proud.
9. **Directors of Ceremony**, allow me to express my gratitude to BIUST partners and collaborators, today we also celebrate your journey with BIUST. The global demand for greater social accountability, responsiveness and relevance on the part of higher education has manifest in an emphasis on universities' contribution to the national economy. As knowledge becomes a force determining productivity and competitiveness, the rapid spread of 'open innovation' and collaboration between firms in emerging and advanced economies around the globe has placed special attention on universities and their potential to enhance firms' technological capabilities. May your relationship with

BIUST go a long way to unlock growth, mitigate risks, foster innovation, and access new markets.

10. To Palapye community, you have been instrumental in the growth and success of this university. Participation, equity, and humility are central principles of university-community partnerships. May you continue supporting your university.

11. **Distinguished Guests**, my sincere thanks go to the Organising committee who handled the preparations of this event. **A wide round of applause** and thanks to all the participants who made the event a memorable one. Finally, I would like to thank all of you present here for making the time to be with us today and helping us make this event a grand success.

Thank you one and all, see you at the various planned activities for the week.

**Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BIUST!**