NATIONAL TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) PITSO, 2021

APPRECIATION OF THE ROLE OF UNESCO/UNEVOC IN TVET

BY

HON MINISTER OF
Ministry of Employment, Labour and Skills Development (MELSD)

Mr MPHO BALOPI

VENUE: BOTHO University, Virtual, Gaborone

DATE: 13th - 14th October 2021

SALUTATIONS

- Hon Dr Douglas Letsholathebe – Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology (MoTE)
- Professor Nelson Torto – Permanent Secretary - Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology (MoTE)
- Ms Sarah Elson – Rogers – UNESCO/UNIVEOC Representative
- Mr Gaeimelwe Goitsemang – Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Employment, Labour and Skills Development (MELSD)
- The Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Human Resource Development Council – Mr Meshack Tafa and your Executive Management,
- Mr Golekanye Setume – Chairperson, Education and Training Sector, Business Botswana,
- European Union – Botswana Representative
- Mr Peter Reger – Head of Programmes (STER – TVET II) GIZ
- Senior Government Officials
- Chief Executive Officers of various Parastatals here present or joining us virtually
- Captains of the Industry
- Heads and Representatives of all Tertiary Education Providers (TEPs),
- Heads and Representatives of all Tertiary Education Providers (TEPs),
- Members of the Fourth Estate
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning

Ladies and gentleman, let me start by expressing my indebtedness to our guest speaker Ms Sarah Elson-Rodgers the UNESCO/UNEVOC Representative for honoring our invitation of this magnitude event. Your presence today has made us to actualize and enjoy the significant role of your office. We are looking forward for further engagements as a nation with your office as we strive together to realize the goals of the UNESCO TVET Strategy.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen you will understand that the purpose of this platform is to interrogate TVET challenges in Botswana and offer practical solutions. Our task is partially complete with what has been alluded to as role of UNESCO-UNEVOC in TVET. Let me thank UNESCO-UNEVOC for its paramount role of focusing on contributing to the overarching UNESCO goals in TVET which includes assisting member states improve and integrate TVET as part of global education for All Campaign.

UNESCO has developed a TVET Strategy for 2016 – 2021 which has three priority areas which are;

1. **Fostering youth employment and entrepreneurship** – UNESCO addresses the issue of growing youth unemployment through TVET by supporting countries in providing access for young people to quality skills training for the world of work and self-employment. To ensure a smoother transition between education and the world, UNESCO supports cross sector collaboration and partnership with the private sector, for relevant incorporation of entrepreneurship skills.

2. **Promoting equity and gender equality** – UNESCO integrates gender equality in and through national TVET systems in different ways, such as through identification of promising international practices; development of guidelines; and by gender-sensitive evaluations of TVET programmes.

3. **Facilitating the transition to green economies and sustainable societies** – UNESCO strategically incorporates green skills in TVET activities and programmes to address new and necessary approaches to employment, consumption and production patterns for sustainable development.

Botswana as an emerging economy also aligns to the UNEVOC Strategy through its national agenda such as the recent President RESET agenda which prioritizes Skills Development and youth employment. I have no doubt that this will be achieved through collaboration with your office.

In conclusion, let me once more express our immense pleasure to UNESCO /UNEVOC for honoring our invitation to TVET PITSO 2021 as the guest speaker.

PULA!

I thank you.