



**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE TECHNICAL AND  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET)  
*PITSO***

**WELCOME REMARKS BY THE HUMAN RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**MR MESHACK J. TAFA**

**VENUE:** Botho University Gaborone

**DATE:** 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## **Order of Precedence**

1. The Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology – Honourable **Dr. Douglas Letsholathebe**.
2. The Minister of Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development- **Honourable Mpho Balopi**.
3. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology – **Professor Nelson Torto**.
4. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development - **Mr. Gaeimelwe Goitsewang**.
5. Team Leader, Innovation and the Future of TVET, **Ms. Sarah Elson-Rogers** - UNESCO – UNEVOC
6. Head of Programme for Strengthening Employment Relevance (SER TVET II) – GIZ Botswana - **Diplomat Peter Reger**
7. Chairperson, Education and Training Sector - Business Botswana - **Mr Golekanye Setume**
8. Director, Human Resource Development Council (HRDP) Supply – HRDC, Dr Ellah Matshediso
9. Presenters and Facilitators of the TVET Pitso 2021 and The MEDIA

Ladies and Gentlemen Good morning to you all.

1. It is a great honour and source of pride for me to welcome you to the second edition of the Botswana National Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Pitso. The first one having been hosted in 2019 in Palapye.

2. This Pitso, a brainchild of the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) in collaboration with the National Technical & Vocational Education and Training Advisory Committee is a seminar whose objective amongst others, is to provide a platform for stakeholders to engage on matters relevant to the development of TVET as a viable avenue to skills development.

2. I am encouraged and indeed pleased that the two Ministries leading the TVET development agenda:

**Tertiary Education, Research, Science & Technology**

and that of **Employment, Labour Productivity & Skills Development** as they have jointly provided the much needed support in organizing and hosting this seminar, which seeks to amongst others, share with participants the progress made with

regard to implementation of the recommendations made in 2019.

The New Normal has forced HRDC and its partners to host this event through a hybrid model in which a small number of officials is gathered here physically while a large number is partaking offsite via the use of technology. No doubt the age of digitalization is upon us.

**3. Ladies and Gentlemen,** the National Tertiary Education Policy of 2008 implores us to work towards a knowledge economy. This is but one such endeavor towards this dream.

We are gathered here alive to the challenges we face at both national, regional and global level. At national level, the contribution of TVET in economic development cannot be over-emphasized. However, the sub-sector is faced with some challenges which amongst others, include delivery of relevant learning programmes, funding, and negative public image.

These challenges if not addressed, have the potential to curtail the sub-sector's ability to contribute towards skills acquisition, employment creation, reduction of the import bill and readiness for the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution. Our worry should not only be about size of the import bill but also about the importation of

TVET and artisanal skills. We should worry about producing work ready and or budding entrepreneurs with not only salable technical know-how but the much needed soft skills and a yearning to succeed.

**4.** TVET plays a key role in the achievement of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and is a powerful tool that provides for life skills acquisition, youth and women economic empowerment, self-employment and industrialization particularly in rural environment.

**Sustainable Development Goal Four (4)** calls on United Nations Member States to “*ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*” and sets targets related to TVET. Priority being Target 4.3 which states that “*By 2030, States should ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university*”.

**5.** The Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) is responsible for providing policy on all matters of the National Human Resource Development, coordinate and promote the implementation of the National Human Resource Development

Strategy, prepare the National Human Resource Development Plans as well as planning and advising on institutional planning, tertiary education financing and workplace learning to name a few. In a bid to deliver on our mandate, it would be remiss of HRDC not to focus on the development of TVET in its implementation of the National Human Resource Development Strategy. .

**6.** HRDC could not host TVET *Pitso* without collaborating with key players. This is a reinforcement of a shared vision towards the achievement of this collective responsibility. HRDC values the contribution of key partners in its quest to deliver its mandate and we are sincerely grateful for the support rendered to us.

**7.** Bagaetsho, in conclusion, allow me once more to welcome you and thank you ally for your audience.