

BOU BULLETIN

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Subject Specialist - Mr Hamaluba

OPEN SCHOOLING DEFINED

Open schooling is a flexible education system that allows learners to learn where and when they want, physically away from a school and a teacher. It uses several teaching methods to support learning, and has no age restrictions, content of courses to be taken or number of courses in which students must enrol. Abrioux (2009) defines open schooling as “the physical separation of the school level learner from the teacher, and the use of unconventional teaching methodologies, and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to bridge the separation and provide the education and training.”

According to COL, “Open Schooling is not called open/distance schooling for a reason; that is Open Schooling may

follow different patterns, but the most common scenario is that the learners study specifically designed open learning materials on their own at home, in their workplace, wherever it is convenient for them and then they meet together with a facilitator on a regular basis.

The “open” in Open Schooling refers to the openness of the system, for example: youth that missed out on schooling in their childhood can enrol in courses which will provide them with the equivalence of secondary education without embarrassment of being in classrooms with children much younger than themselves; young mothers can take secondary-level education through studying at home, and attending tutorials

in the evenings and when necessary and their responsibilities permit; working adults can enrol in one or two courses at a time, and study whenever their personal and work commitments permit.

Furthermore, COL uses the term “Open Schooling” rather than “Open and Distance Learning” because openness and flexibility are more important features than physical separation. As one of COL’s publications expresses it, “Usually there are no rules dictating student ages, prerequisites, content of courses or numbers of courses in which learners must enroll. As a result, open schooling meets the needs of a broad range of learners” (Commonwealth of Learning, 2008). It is also important to note that the face-to-face sessions with the facilitator are mainly to clarify any difficulties that the students may have experienced when working through the learning materials. These sessions are seldom mandatory. It does not affect a student if he or she has to “drop out” for a period of time since they can pick up their studies once again, when it is convenient for them to do so.

Registration will start the first week of February to end of March 2020

BOU SECOND GRADUATION A SUCCESS



Botswana Open University is celebrating a successful second graduation ceremony held under “Embracing Technology-enhanced Open and Distance Learning (ODL)”. The graduation held recently at Fairgrounds holdings in Gaborone signified the growth of the University since its commencement in 2017.

The University at its first Graduation ceremony in 2017 conferred a total of 1 368 graduates and has this year successfully conferred 1 627 graduates from 20 academic programmes. These are certificates, diploma, undergraduate degrees, postgraduate degrees and postgraduate certificates.

When welcoming the congregation, the Botswana Open University Vice Chancellor Dr. Daniel Tau stated that the theme for this year was motivated by the national vision 2036 ideals of a knowledge based society, the strategic intent of the University, the 2036 strategic framework as well as the overarching objective of the University 2019-2023 Strategic Plan all of which perceive technology as the nexus of human pursuits into the future.

The Vice Chancellor said Open and Distance Learning is driven by technology in more ways than one. “Botswana Open University has made significant progress towards integration of technology in its teaching and learning processes, applications for study, registration into our tertiary programmes as well as payment which can now be done from any

place in the world where there is access to internet”, he added.

The Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology Dr. Douglas Letsholathebe also cited ODL as the fundamental mode of study saying that judging by the cumulative enrolments and throughputs that have been achieved ever since BOCODOL and now BOU that have significantly impacted the lives of many Batswana.

The Minister said that Government is committed to creating conditions conducive for an inclusive economy. He said citizens need to be empowered to be active players in the economy and ODL institutions should play an important role in bringing up the required human resource development both by promoting the knowledge based and skill based education and by protecting them against all anti-social activities.

The Minister encouraged the graduates to bring out the investment into their families, workplaces and into the nation as a whole. “I encourage you to dig deeper within yourselves to evince your various talents and knowledge and play a meaningful role to the economy of Botswana”, stressed the minister.

The Graduates were further reminded that they have already embraced technology in their learning and are better placed to serve as facilitators in the delivery of ODL.



DVC Ms Lesetedi also graduated from CDEP



Vice Chancellor Dr Tau addressing the congregation

“CONGRATULATIONS ARE BEFITTING TO THE GRADUATED CLASS OF 2019”

Annual Recognition Awards Ceremony 2019

BOU Staff Recognition and Awards Ceremony



BOU EMBRASES CULTURAL WRITERS



BOU Vice Chancellor Dr Tau welcoming guests



Milidzo Ikalanga author Mr Moswela

documented. She said the book is of great value because it can help even foreigners to know what is expected when marrying in Botswana.



DPS - MYSC Mr Paledi

Botswana Open University (BOU) recently launched two books based on different aspects of the Setswana culture, the books *Nyalo Ya Setso mo Botswana* and *Milidzo Ikalanga* are authored by Ms Iren Ngwako and Mr Monty Moswela respectively.

When welcoming guests BOU Vice Chancellor Dr Daniel Tau highlighted that the university is a social enabler and a catalyst of a knowledge based society that is in the Botswana vision 2036. He said literature is important in providing academic excellence and that the University subsumes cultural reservation in writing. "Botswana Open University exist to support Botswana and the launch of these two books is a step in the right direction not only in support but in cultural reservation through writing", said the Vice Chancellor.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture Development Mr Bruno Paledi also lamented that books are of great cultural significance, he said public libraries falls under his ministry and therefore they have a great interest in authors and publishers. He uploaded both

authors saying this is a great move towards cultural documentation and reservation.

The author of *Milidzo Ikalanga* Mr Monty Moswela informed attendees that his writing is inspired by the strong interest he has for Ikalanga language and culture, he said his wish is for the language to be in the public domain so that it does not die like other languages of the world that no longer exist.

He said he was taught in Ikalanga at subA, subB and standard one; he has in previous years published two other books in Ikalanga.

The author of *Nyalo ya setso mo Botswana* Ms Iren Ngwako also alluded that she has been working with marriages for the past 36 years and through this experience and a concern about the divorce rates she was compelled to craft a cultural piece that encapsulates the processes and procedures of customary marriage in different parts of the country.

Ms Ngwako said marriage practices and expectations in Botswana are different from tribe to tribe and non of them have been



Nyalo ya Setso mo Botswana author Ms Ngwako



The Management of Botswana Open University (BOU) wishes to inform all its stakeholders, partners, learners and the public at large that the University Headquarters and all its Regional Campuses will be closed for the Christmas and New Year Holidays from Monday 16th December 2019 until Friday 3rd January 2020. The University will reopen for business on Monday 6th January 2020.

The BOU Management and Staff wish to thank you, its clients; stakeholders, learners and the public for the support and collaboration that you have accorded the University in the year 2019.

We look forward to having a more productive relationship in the year 2020.

BOU Wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Inspire Tomorrow, Today

