

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

CLOSING REMARKS

BY

**Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Employment, Labour and
Skills Development (MELSD)**

Mr Gaeimelwe Goitsemanang

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
- 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 Day / Afternoon

- 1.** Ladies and Gentlemen I am humbled by this mind-blowing gathering dubbed TVET Pitso. For me this event is in the league of a summit and moving forward we need to re-imagine TVET Pitso to harness broader participation by all including but not limited to community members, leadership across the country, in-school as well as out-of-school youth. I am therefore pleased to have been accorded an opportunity to speak to you about this topical subject of transforming Technical and Vocational Education and Training for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

- 2.** Bagaetsho, it is my belief and hope that the 2021 TVET Pitso provided insightful information and opportunities for the betterment of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training sub-sector. This is an opportunity to foster participations, establish linkages as well as urge us all to collectively move with speed to implement actionable items and recommendations. Ladies and gentlemen various speakers have spoken about the viability of TVET as a potential area of job creation. This is true as it was proved where we saw Mechanics, plumbers, electricians and other trades kept afloat financially when Covid 19 was ravaging the rest of the economy. For me this says that TVET needs to be resuscitated and be given the attention it deserves. I therefore, think that you will agree with me that the TVET Pitso underscores the value addition of vocational training.

- 3.** Put differently, TVET Pitso provides a platform for us to reflect on skills and employment creation as well as our advances or failures in securing a more competent, enabled, active and skilled human resources.

4. Greater efforts should be directed at supporting our TVET Colleges and Brigades to become premier trades and occupational skills development institutions and this can only be attained through seamless relationships between the private sector, public and private institutions, professional bodies and labour movements.
5. At this juncture, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to recognise in a very special way the National TVET Advisory Committee (NTAC). I have been informed that this structure constitutes coordinating bodies within the TVET Sub-Sector. The success of the TVET Pitso is indeed attributable to NTAC, evidencing their individual commitment to the obligation as members.
6. A special thank you goes to BOTHO University for hosting the Pitso physically and virtually and of course GIZ for their continued technical and financial support.
7. Our international partners in particular, the Office of UNESCO-UNEVOC Director which brought into the event an international perspective and therefore making us part of the global village. The European Union – Botswana Representative thank you, indeed your presence means a lot to the gathering.
8. I also applaud the presenters for their sterling job in providing insightful information to the participants. Let me underscore that in the 2021 TVET PITSO, the golden thread that wove through all presentations and deliberations was the Fourth Industrial Revolution from multitude of different perspectives and elements, that apply to skills, jobs, education and training, in the past, present and future. **Thank you presenters.**

- 9.** Let me also recognise various Ministries here present, other private sector/ Industry, education and training providers, and learners represented by their respective Student Representative Councils. Indeed, ***moroto-wa-esi-ga-o-ele***, loosely translated to mean collective efforts bear more fruits than individual endeavours.
- 10.** It will be an oversight on my part if I do not recognise the organisers of the event and would request a big ovation for HRDC and its partners for pulling through an outstanding and successful 2021 TVET Pitso.
- 11.** With those few words, I declare the 2021 TVET Pitso Closed.
- 12. I thank you.**