



VOTE OF THANKS BY

**Ms Choice Pitso
HRDC Board Chairperson**

**AT THE
OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE BOTSWANA LMO
GOVERNING BODY**

VENUE: FAIRGROUNDS

DATE: 11th OCTOBER 2022

SALUTATIONS

- i. His Honour the Vice President of the Republic of Botswana – Mr Slumber Tsogwane
- ii. Hon. Minister of Labour and Home Affairs – Ms Annah Mokgethi
- iii. Hon. Minister of Education and Skills Development – Dr. Douglas Letsholathebe
- iv. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, All protocol observed.

Good Afternoon

1. On behalf of HRDC, and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to convey gratitude to His Honour the Vice President of this beautiful Republic, Rre Slumber Tsogwane for finding time from his busy schedule to officiate at this event. It is with great pleasure and honour that I do this vote of thanks. Let me take this moment to also thank the honourable Ministers here with us today for finding a slot in their busy schedule to honour our invitation – Honourable Dr. Douglas Letsholathebe and Honourable Ms. Annah Mokgethi, kere le kamoso beng bame!
2. Today's event was very important, the objective of which was to launch the Labour Market Observatory (LMO) Governing Body. It is gratifying and reassuring to see many of you here and those joining us virtually to witness this occasion. It shows that you have keen interest in seeing to the success of our nation and in supporting the delivery of our mandate as HRDC, of driving the national human resource development agenda.

3. Bagaetsho, as you would know, Section 4 of the HRDC Act mandates HRDC to: Provide policy advice on all matters of the National Human Resource Development, Co-ordinate and promote the implementation of the National Human Resource Development Strategy; Prepare the National Human Resource Development Plans; and Plan and advice on tertiary education financing and workplace learning. The Act further mandates HRDC to establish and manage a national labour market information system and national education and skills development database.
4. As we are launching the LMO Governing Body today, I am happy to say that the development of the Labour Market Information System or LMIS for short has started to enable the operations of the LMO. Furthermore, HRDC has also advanced the delivery of the electronic registration of job seekers and job openings and we will continue to improve on it to make it more responsive to the needs of users.
5. Your Honour, in establishing this LMO Governing Body, we have clearly indicated that we are progressing well in building strong collaboration and enhancing the role of all labour market stakeholders in this country in national economic and social development. Raising the capacity levels of this nation to meet the needs of the economy, to fulfil individual potentials and to assist our people to meaningfully engage with and contribute to the broader expectations and demands of society has become an important element of that role. Particularly where unprecedented negative effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the recent Russia-Ukraine War shapes and influences one's success or failure in the labour market.

6. Director of Ceremonies, the *one stop centre* for labour market information that the Botswana Labour Market Observatory will be, could only mean that the realization of this new national contextual framework is within our reach. The labour market information that will be produced by our LMO will be essential for tracking and analysing the economy of this country. In addition, it will be used in determining future workforce training needs, identifying the availability of labour, ascertaining the prevailing wage rates, and exploring potential markets, among others. The message is therefore clear that integrated and cohesive approach that includes interventions at both macro and micro level can no longer be avoided.

7. I can only assure participants and stakeholders that this collaboration and consultation is not going to stop here, it will continue as the operational stage unfolds. I could only urge all of you, in particular the LMO itself, to continue to work hard in fostering intra-sectoral co-operation and collaboration and to commit time and resources for the realization of this dream. For it is through the involvement of all of you that the dream could be translated into reality. The way forward, therefore, for the LMO Governing Body is to go and take into account the many and valuable suggestions which have been made as to how the LMO should be enhanced to bear maximum results. At the end of the day, a direct outcome of the LMO is ensuring that education and training enhances employability and is placed at the heart of macroeconomic policy.

8. Bagaetsho, let me conclude my remarks by informing you that the development of the national LMO has become even more urgent given the expectations articulated in the National Employment Policy (NEP) and the

Economic Inclusion Act of 2021 to ensure that we have in place systems to monitor labour market patterns and trends; guide skills development and provide policy advice on issues of employment. Furthermore, we will be able to effectively track regional and international development frameworks such as the SADC Industrialization Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially “Goal 4 of Quality Education and Goal 8 of Decent Work and Economic Growth”.

9. With that ladies and gentlemen, today’s event was worthwhile. Let me conclude once more by thanking His Honour the Vice President of Botswana Rre Slumber Tsogwane and our two Honourable Ministers for graciously agreeing to extol today’s event by their presence and visionary statements. I want to sincerely thank other representatives of Government, Parastatals, the Private sector and NGOs for their active participation. I extend my gratitude to representatives from the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and the Directorate of Public Service Management for collaborating with us in organising today’s event as well as all presenters and speakers who made the message of the day.

10. I want to acknowledge and appreciate all the other key stakeholders here present especially the ILO representatives from the Pretoria Office and those attending virtually abroad for the critical role they have played in this initiative. May I hasten to indicate that we are looking forward to contributing to the establishment of the SADC regional LMO to ensure comparability of information across the member states.

11. Last but not least I would also like to recognise and thank all the media

houses here present and express our sincere gratitude for partnering with us as we continue to communicate and inform our people on the trends and changes in our educational and employment landscape. I believe they will equally help us solicit ideas from the public on how best to improve. To you all I say let's continue to pull together. A business-as-usual and silo attitude is no longer tenable.

12. Lastly, let me thank the staff of HRDC, in particular Dr. Sekambo and her team for their tenacity and hard work in organising this event.

13. With these few remarks, I once again thank you all for being part of this journey, Good Afternoon!

14. I thank you Director of Ceremonies.