"Patriotism must always be defined by what unites us as a nation, rather than what divides us, without denying that differences will always exist among us. On days like today we can as patriots celebrate our diversity, while affirming our common heritage, future and destiny. In so doing we should be bound together by our mutual respect for one another as well as our commitment to our country. This implies recognising what is positive within us by refraining from casting undue aspersions on the accomplishments of fellow citizens around us." - H.E. the President [B1]

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E. Also elsewhere in the news today -
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   2. VOA (USA) - "Botswana Celebrates 44 Years of Independence"
Dear Readers - welcome to this special Botswana Day edition of Tautona Times, which comes to you on the 44th Anniversary of our country's restored independence. We thus feature H.E. the President's Botswana Day Message to the Nation, in English and Setswana [B1], as well as his remarks earlier this week at 11th National Business Conference in Francistown [B2] and Official Opening of the Trans-Molopo highway [B3]. Unfortunately H.E. was unable to attend the latter event due to the condition of the runway where he was to have landed [C3].

Our statement's section also features is H.H. the Vice President's address to the Plenary of the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly [B4] and the Hon. Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration's remarks at last Saturday's 70th Anniversary Celebration of the Camphill Community Trust in Otse [B5]

Today's edition further profiles all of this year's Presidential Honours recipients, who received their awards from His Excellency at a ceremony held in Gaborone on Monday [D] and a sample of Botswana related stories being carried by media elsewhere in the world today [E].

Our next edition is expected to feature material from this coming week's State Visit by His Excellency to the Republic of South Africa. We will be there to facilitate the flow of information to the Press where possible.

- Dr. Jeff Ramsay, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Media (30/9/10)

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B. STATEMENTS

B1) 2010 Botswana Day Message in a) English and b) Setswana

B1a) 30/9/10: INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE TO THE NATION BY HIS EXCELLENCY LT. GENERAL SERETSE KHAMAIAN KHAMA PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

1. My fellow citizens, it is a pleasure to address you on this special day marking the 44th Anniversary of our status as a free people in our country, living in peace with ourselves and the rest of the world. Today we can proudly celebrate the shared legacy of those who came before us, while reflecting upon what we should achieve in our time and what we should achieve for those who shall come after us.
2. At independence our nation was among the world’s least developed countries when measured by levels of formal education, health facilities, material infrastructure amongst others. Yet, Batswana then had the wisdom of a collective conviction that they could create a better society, which would not only become an inheritance for their children, but also a beacon of decency for others in the region and the wider world.

3. Whereas most outsiders were then dismissive of our potential to even survive, much less prosper, as a territory surrounded on all sides by seemingly more powerful racist regimes; we had the good fortune of being led by a visionary generation of men and women who looked beyond what was evident at the time.

4. Where some outsiders saw hopelessness, Batswana had the commitment to development and we indeed did so. Let us therefore also be empowered by the example of their courage and devotion to our country in realising our own hopes of an even better tomorrow.

5. We are of course already guided by our Long-term Vision of where we want to go by 2016. The star of our Vision is the overarching goal of building a more productive society that ensures the dignified wellbeing of all Batswana. This is an outcome that can be achieved, but only if we are prepared to empower ourselves as individuals and as team members united in our love for our country and committed to one another.

6. As was the case back in 1966, Botswana has once more reached a crossroads that will test our resolve. Revenues from diamonds alone can no longer sustain our aspirations. The global economic downturn, from which we are slowly recovering, has put additional stress on our finances. We must replace over dependence on Government, which encourages disempowering expectations of entitlement, with the courage to pursue sustainable wealth creation. The culture of dependence is not good for this nation. What will sustain us is commitment to the spirit of self reliance, acquiring and using business and enterprising skills to improve efficiency and productivity.

7. Prominent among the obstacles in our path is the persistence of poverty that, besides its demoralising impact, robs society as a whole of its productive potential and collective dignity. Government has thus shifted its focus away from alleviation measures to a moral commitment to eradicate absolute poverty, with an emphasis on encouraging community enterprise in pursuit of economic diversification drive.

8. In meeting all of our challenges, we must accept the responsibility of self-empowerment by achieving standards of excellence in our individual and collective endeavours. This objective lies at the heart of our “Botswana Excellence Strategy” for economic growth and sustainable development.

9. Acknowledging the fact that our domestic economy is too small to prosper on its own, the strategy recognises the need for us to reach beyond our borders. When
we must, however, remain the owners of our destiny. Just as we were once determined against all odds to establish a re-born nation, we ought to now have the self-confidence to become world class competitors.

10. Looking back at our own experience, as well as the example of others, it is clear that competitive nations are empowered by an underlying sense of patriotism as well as a commitment to productivity. Both of these words are misinterpreted by some.

11. The common definition of productivity is the amount of output or value that is obtained from one’s input in terms of capital, technology or labour and mindset I must add. It is therefore a challenge to managers and workers alike to achieve more from their efforts through greater efficiency built on the synergy of teamwork arising from common commitment.

12. Patriotism must always be defined by what unites us as a nation, rather than what divides us, without denying that differences will always exist among us. On days like today we can as patriots celebrate our diversity, while affirming our common heritage, future and destiny. In so doing we should be bound together by our mutual respect for one another as well as our commitment to our country. This implies recognising what is positive within us by refraining from casting undue aspersions on the accomplishments of fellow citizens around us.

13. I once said, that whatever you do or whatever you say, should be done and said in the best interests of this country. However, we still see those who display attitudes and conduct, from people in the media and elsewhere, who make up stories, proliferate false rumours, spread untruths, try to discredit those with whom they disagree and who are failing to adapt to a basic sense of decency of respect for fellow citizens. Freedom of speech and that of the press, and of association, and all other freedoms enshrined in a democracy, do not translate into freedom of abuse, freedom to mislead and indeed freedom of lawlessness. The tendency in some quarters towards inward thinking that puts short term desires ahead of wider long term needs of the nation is regrettable.

14. We cannot prosper as a country of achievers if we are not prepared to pull each other up and assist each other to move forward together as people of one nation if there are those amongst us whose only motivation is to try to bring others down. Let us therefore demonstrate our patriotism by supporting the success of all Batswana, for this is the route to true citizen empowerment.

15. Therefore let us all support the winning example of our National Team the Zebras, and other sportsmen and women doing us proud.

16. In conclusion, let me also take this opportunity to wish all Batswana a safe, secure and, more especially when driving, sober holiday. Also as we are once more entering the summer season, let us again pray to our Maker for the continued blessing of good rains. Pula!
B2) 27/9/10: H.E. the President's Address at the Official Opening of the 11th National Business Conference held at Adansonia Hotel in Francistown

Cabinet Ministers; Members of Parliament; His Worship the Mayor - Councillor Shadreck Nyeku; Permanent Secretaries;
The President of BOCCIM - Mr. Modiri Mbaakanyi;
BOCCIM Executive Director - Ms. Maria Machailo Ellis;
Guest Speaker - Mr. Bobby Godsell
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
BOCCIM Council Members
Members of the Private Sector;
Conference Chairpersons - Mrs. Grace Muzila and Dr. Jaloni Pansiri
Councillors; Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentleman

1. The theme chosen for the 11th National Business Conference is "Deepening Diversification through Private Sector Leadership". The theme is a topical one at this juncture in Botswana's economic development. The global financial and economic crisis that has dominated the world economy over the past two years has illustrated that. The crisis has also illustrated that we cannot permanently rely on government to drive the economy.

2. As we met at the last National Business Conference in early September 2008, we were not aware of the full intensity of the financial and economic crisis that was about to engulf the world economy. Since that time, all regions of the world have been impacted by the crisis. We have seen through global recession, the shrinking of world trade, collapsing financial institutions, rising unemployment, increased reliance on state social programs, rising poverty, salary freezes, salary reductions and laying off of workers in the private and public sectors.

3. Like all countries, Botswana has been negatively affected by the global financial and economic crisis. The main impact has come through the international trade effects, with Botswana's major exports - diamonds, copper/nickel and tourism - badly affected by the recession in major developed economies. As a result of problems in the international diamond market, mining of diamonds was cut back in 2009, which pushed the economy into recession in that year, with GDP growth of around minus 4 percent. Reduced export earnings have caused the balance of payments to deteriorate and require a drawdown of the foreign exchange reserves in order to finance imports. Reduced government revenues from the mineral sector have led to large budget deficits, financed by a combination of borrowing and drawdown of savings.

4. The combination of recession and twin deficits - on the balance of payments and the government budget - made 2009 the most challenging year for the Botswana economy for three decades. The savings and foreign exchange reserves
accumulated from years of prudent policies have enabled Botswana to withstand these challenges reasonably well. Continued government spending during the crisis has provided a fiscal stimulus that boosted the domestic market. The early months of 2010 have seen a healthy recovery in commodity prices (for diamonds, copper and nickel) that has boosted the mining sector, and GDP growth in 2010 should be of a positive rate. Nevertheless, the crisis highlighted some of the challenges facing policymakers. Diamond exports are not expected to return to the peak levels of 2007 for several years, and substantial investments are required to extend the life of the main diamond mines.

5. The long-term fiscal impact on Botswana will be reduced government spending and a renewed focus on policy reform in order to boost economic growth: although the crisis was devastating, it acted as a snapshot of the future, should the economy continue being driven by the mining sector and we fail to diversify. Many years of successful development have been slowed by the economic crisis. It is thought that the unemployment rate has increased in 2009 given the closure of textile industry firms and retrenchments by some private companies, especially those that are export based. We in government considered salary cuts and layoffs only as a last resort should the salary freeze we have had in place not be sufficient as an intervention to cut spending. We still intend to try and avoid such actions which may necessitate extending the freeze until the situation normalises.

6. With an anticipated decline in diamond production from 2020 onwards as existing reserves become exhausted, the need for diversification is an urgent priority. Diversification within the mining sector is seen as having considerable potential, along with the further development of the tourism industry, other tradable services, as well as manufacturing. Though the mining sector suffered a severe dip during the crisis, the non-mining sector (particularly service sector) has shown tremendous growth and proves to be a potential economic driver for Botswana. At this point we are prepared to fully engage in measures that we need to continue the success story.

7. Therefore the theme of this conference 'Deepening Diversification through Private Sector Leadership' is timely. Of course the need for diversification is not new. It is time to review and evaluate our current strategies and policies, and if necessary change them, in order to ensure that our diversification drive is successful.

8. We need to reflect on what it is that has impaired our diversification efforts to date. Is the policy framework inadequate or inconsistent? Is it a lack of skilled manpower, or restrictive policies and regulations? Are we failing to integrate ourselves sufficiently into the globalising world economy? Or are we finally feeling the impact of the so-called "resource curse", one aspect of which is that mining economies find it very difficult to diversify?

9. Let us also remind ourselves of the principles outlined in the "Botswana Excellence" strategy, which comprises a range of actions and instruments needed to achieve economic diversification and sustainable growth: these include creating an enabling framework; mindset change, economic openness and citizen empowerment.
through excellence. The strategy also encompasses the six Hub projects that have the potential to boost diversification by promoting sustainable new economic activities.

10. Government should not be the driving force in the economy, outside of mining, indefinitely. The private sector has to take the lead in driving the economy and we as government - including local authorities - have to play a complementary and facilitative role to ensure a conducive business environment.

11. Different government departments are decentralizing and the local authorities are taking over some functions. Local authorities must work productively with the private sector and make sure that they create an environment that is attractive for business so as to ensure diversification in their regions. They have a responsibility to draw investment to their regions, make them competitive and attractive. We must all make sure that government - central and local - avoids anything that may be seen as an anti-business attitude.

12. My Cabinet and I are aware of the uneasiness amongst the business sector attributable to the perception that we are not sufficiently addressing the issue of work and residence permits. While I concede that we may not be moving at the required speed in this aspect, it is worthy to note that we as Government welcome investors and would do all in our power to attract them to this country. What we disapprove is the tendency of some visitors to abuse the system. This then calls for due diligence when processing such applications which invariably causes some delay. In this regard, I want to advise all those who feel challenged in any sector to approach the relevant Ministry for assistance.

13. Allow me to reiterate the statement I made two years ago; It is a hallmark of my administration that we will listen to a range of views, whether conventional or unconventional, from within government, from the private sector, from civil society, and from outside of Botswana. One of the merits of gatherings such as this one is that many differing views can be aired, and yet at the end of the event some conclusions that hopefully reflect a broad consensus are reached. If ideas and policy initiatives are thoroughly discussed and well thought out, then that provides government with a very useful spectrum of proposals to consider. As you are aware, many of the previous proposals emanating from this conference have been implemented, and I believe the country is much better off as a result.

14. I note that the agenda for this year's conference has a range of interesting topics and speakers; I see we have a good blend of local and international speakers, this will definitely be helpful. I am further pleased to see that there will be discussions on the opportunities in the private sector, the policy environment and building the private sector among other topics. I am aware that the BOCCIM Council and the Organising Committee for this event have deliberately aimed for a programme and speakers who will perhaps be controversial, may make us uncomfortable, certainly will be stimulating, and will require us to review and reconsider some things that we have taken for granted.
15. This is something that I will definitely encourage.

16. I am delighted to see that the Keynote Speaker, Mr Bobby Godsell, comes with a wide range of experience and fits well into our theme. You will hear more about him, and from him, later. I am informed that Mr Godsell boasts both an impeccable CV as well as a reputation both within the 'establishment' and otherwise - which is exactly what we need here.

17. In conclusion, I wish for another fruitful conference and look forward to the resolutions that will emanate from this conference. I now wish to declare the 11th National Business Conference officially open.

B3) 28/9/10: H.E. the President's remarks for the official opening of Tshabong-Middlepits-Bokspits Road

Please find below in a) English and b) Setswana remarks by H.E. the President for the official opening Tshabong-Middlepits-Bokspits Road. As His Excellency was unable to arrive at Gakhibana due to technical difficulties with the runway the remarks were read on his behalf by the Minister of Transport and Communications, the Hon. Frank Ramsden.

B3a) Remarks by His Excellency Lt. Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana at the official opening of Tshabong-Middlepits-Bokspits Road at Gakhibana

[Salutations]...Distinguished Guests Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It gives me great pleasure that I am amongst you today to witness yet another major milestone achievement in our development programmes.

2. I am highly gratified that as the years pass by we keep adding new faces to our infrastructure developments.

3. It is a well known fact that a well developed and reliable transport network plays a central role in the country's economic development. It is in recognition of this fact that the Government of Botswana has since independence been allocating large portions of its budget to infrastructure. Some of you may know that at independence we only had 6 kilometres of tarred roads, whereas today we have 8434 km of bitumen roads throughout the country.

4. Road transport plays an important role in the marketing of agricultural and manufactured products and enables physical access to social amenities such as administration centres, health facilities, schools and tourism areas. Conversely, lack of accessibility or poor road conditions serve as a barrier to government's efforts to improve the quality of life of Batswana.

5. The 257 Km of tarred road between Tshabong and Bokspits that we are opening today is part of Botswana's total Public Highway Network whose length is
18,327 kilometres. This consists of about 9,000 kilometres of roads that have been upgraded and maintained by Local Authorities. About 8,434 kilometres of roads out of the 18,327 kilometres of the Public Highway Network are bituminized. The rest are gravel, earth and sandy tracks.

6. I am informed that during construction of this road the soil presented a challenge as did the water. We had to ask for water from South Africa and used a lot of cement and other materials to stabilize the soils which would otherwise not hold down. Despite these odds the project was finally completed.

7. The road will also offer you opportunities to operate public transport business to service the population of this District. Your cattle will also be transported to the Botswana Meat Commission in Lobatse with less challenges than it was in the past.

8. In our endeavour to develop this country our Government cannot on its own finance all the projects. We from time to time have to ask for loans. In this particular project we borrowed money from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA).

9. My Government thanks all these Agencies for funding this project. I also wish to thank the people of southern Kgalagadi for agreeing to be relocated to make way for this important development in their area whilst others assisted with water from their boreholes. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the South African Government and the Association of Farmers for allowing the Government of Botswana to draw water from their properties for the construction of this project.

10. I also thank other stake holders such as consultants, contractors and individuals who have made it possible for this magnificent road to be completed.

11. Whilst Government continues to improve roads it is however regrettable that we lose many lives on the roads because people become reckless and also drink while driving. The economic cost incurred by the country as a result of road traffic accidents is high. I would like to take this opportunity to urge all road users to always think of their safety.

12. On that note it is now my pleasure to declare the Tsabong-Middlepits-Bokspits road officially opened. Thank you. PULA!

B3b) Gakhibana - Lwetse A le 28, 2010 Mahoko A Ga Motlotlegi Tautona Pulo Ya Tsela Ya Tsabong - Middlepits-Bokspits Batlotlegi lotlhe ka go harologana ga Iona, - [Text ka Setswana distributed to local media stakeholders - available to all others on request]

B4) 27/9/10: STATEMENT BY H.H. THE VICE PRESIDENT, LT. GEN. MOMPATI S. MERAFAHTE, AT THE PLENARY OF THE 65th SESSION of UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
1. It is my singular honour to extend my congratulations to you on your assumption of the Presidency of this Assembly. Your election is a vote of confidence by the international community both in you personally, and also in your esteemed country, Switzerland. I wish to assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation in the discharge of your onerous responsibilities.

2. My commendation also goes to the Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon and his staff for their commitment to the advancement of the work of this noble organization.

3. As Member States, we continue to find refuge in the provisions of the United Nations Charter and have remained with the full assurance that when we are individually faced with insurmountable challenges and difficulties, we draw from the collective strength of the international community.

4. Working together for a common purpose, for the common good is actually the sacredness of this, our grand institution. In this regard we must all remain steadfast in our partnership on the agenda for poverty eradication, pursuit of international peace and security, combating of disease, promotion of youth empowerment, gender equality, promotion and protection of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, personal advancement through education, a better health for all as well as harnessing technology for sustainable development.

5. It is on account of this abiding faith and belief in the viability and primacy of the United Nations that, in spite of our resource limitations, we have over the years faithfully fulfilled our obligations to this organization. The deliberations of the recently concluded High Level Plenary meeting on the Review of the Millennium Development Goals, our global blueprint for monitoring universal progress made towards shared development goals, have clearly accentuated our strengths, weaknesses and vulnerabilities, individually and collectively. For this reason we need to redouble our efforts to accelerate the implementation of the MDGs in the remaining 5 years.

6. Mr. President, Botswana is classified as an upper middle income country. However, having enjoyed stability and steady economic growth over a sustained period of time, the country still has to contend with a plethora of development challenges, ironically, in an environment of diminished international development assistance and support. The vulnerability of economies such as that of my country became evident during the triple global crises of food, energy and most recently, the world economic and financial meltdown. To this end, we call for continued development assistance for middle income countries, lest their hard earned gains are reversed.

7. Mr. President, in this era of growing and complex global challenges, the need for a more dynamic and proactive global financial, economic and political architecture is
therefore. More specifically, the recent crises point to a financial architecture that needs to be profoundly reformed in order to enhance its early warning capabilities and resistance to external shocks, as well as facilitating the integration of poorer countries in the global economy.

8. Mr. President, Botswana welcomes the important milestones achieved in the strengthening of the UN's operational activities for development, improvement of funding for development related activities, as well as strengthening the institutional framework for the gender architecture through the creation of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women. The creation of this entity constitutes an important step in fulfilling the commitments undertaken at the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women, whose main objective was the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.

9. Mr. President, Botswana fully supports the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the Peace Building Commission (PBC). We believe that the role of the Peace Building Commission should be properly defined by a robust mandate through the amendment of the founding resolutions and the provision of adequate resources in order to enable it to effectively discharge its mandate.

10. On a related subject, we fully concur that disarmament and non-proliferation are essential for the promotion of international peace and security. To this end, my delegation welcomes progress made in some areas, but remains deeply concerned that the Conference on Disarmament continues to be deadlocked. I wish to seize this opportunity to re-affirm Botswana's commitment to the objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which we continue to demonstrate through effective implementation of its provisions as well as compliance with the decisions of the successive Review Conferences.

11. Consequently, Botswana associates itself with the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the State Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We fully support developing countries' call for the peaceful use of nuclear technology in areas such as agriculture, the environment, water management and medicine. However, those countries which intend to embark upon such use of nuclear technology should do so in a transparent fashion and in full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We therefore call for increased financial support for the International Atomic Energy Agency Technical Cooperation Programme as well as in capacity building in order to share technology utilization in the relevant areas.

12. Botswana continues to be deeply concerned about increasing threats to international peace and security. As a peace loving nation, we believe in peaceful resolution of conflicts. It is on account of this strong belief that we condemn, without reservation, any acts of terrorism, including the 9/11 terrorist attacks, over which our well known position remains unchanged. My delegation does not believe that the 9/11 attack was orchestrated by the United States of America.
There is therefore an urgent need for us to reverse this trend especially because it undermines all the efforts we have made to date to launch our countries on a path of peace, stability and sustainable development. To this end, we commend the various civil society organisations which have consistently sounded alarm bells regarding incidents of human rights violations whenever and wherever they occur.

14. Mr. President, my country is of the view that the International Criminal Court needs to be supported in its efforts to resolve outstanding cases of warrants of arrest which have been issued against all persons indicted for the commission of serious crimes. It is in this context that Botswana remains resolute and steadfast in its support for the work of the International Criminal Court. We welcome the landmark decision of the Rome Statute Review Conference held recently in Kampala, Uganda, to extend the exercise of the jurisdiction of the Court to cover the crime of aggression.

15. Mr. President nowhere is our shared responsibility, as members of the international community, more critical than in protecting and nurturing our shared environment, and our planet, earth. To this end, it is pertinent to point out that climate change has increasingly become one of humanity’s most daunting challenges. The devastating natural disasters recently experienced in certain quarters of our globe amply demonstrate our vulnerability as inhabitants of the earth. I wish to seize this opportunity, on behalf of the people of Botswana, and indeed on my own behalf, to express our sympathies and solidarity with all the countries which have been victims of these disasters.

16. We would also like to extend our condolences to all the families of those who lost their loved ones and those whose properties and livelihoods were destroyed. We extend our profound appreciation to the governments as well as private sector and civil society organisations which responded positively to the international humanitarian appeal launched by the United Nations on behalf of these affected countries. In particular we would like to recognize those countries which led the humanitarian interventions. We therefore remain optimistic that the next Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will achieve a successful outcome, which fully addresses the interests and concerns of both developing and developed countries.

17. In conclusion, Mr. President, we pray that this 65th Session of the General Assembly should go down in history as having marked a milestone in efforts aimed at addressing the most pressing global challenges of our time, as well as bringing hope and inspiration to the billions in despair throughout the world. I thank you for the courtesy of your kind attention.
Ladies and gentlemen, Good morning

1. It is indeed a great pleasure and honour to address you today on the occasion when the Camphill Community Trust celebrates its 70th anniversary throughout the world, while the Botswana chapter celebrates its 35 years of existence.

2. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are gathered here this morning to celebrate a great sacrifice that was made by the founders of this great Institution Mr and Mrs Groth; a couple which showed great compassion towards the people with special needs and the disadvantaged. I have been informed that the trust embraces three communities which are:-

* Rankoromane School, which caters for primary level education from level 1 up to level 7 for children with special needs.
* Legodimo Pre-Vocational Centre, for mentally and physically challenged teenagers.
* Motse Wa Badiri which to provides Vocational skills to people with disabilities in a conducive living and working environment.

3. Ladies and gentlemen, I am also informed that the Trust has grown from strength to strength over the years from only 4 children when it started to the present level of 114 pupils, students and trainees. With 59 pupils, in Rankoromane, 30 students in Legodimo and 50 people with disabilities in Motse Wa Badiri. It is indeed encouraging to know how the Trust bridges the gap between the people with special needs and the larger society. It strives to train people with special needs to be of value to the society and to make them self reliant. It endeavours to prove the adage "disability is not inability". As such, the Camphill life skills have proved beyond doubt that they are of high quality. As, a source of employment to the community and the larger society Camphill also embraces the National Vision 2016 Pillar in its goals of being a compassionate and caring community. Like all other human being, people with special needs want to be recognised and celebrated. They want to have a voice and to be seen. I believe it is through hard work and consistency that can be achieved.

4. It is with no doubt that the growth is attributed to the support by Government Grant through the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. Government has also supported all disability programs through the Botswana Council for the Disabled by giving a subvention to the tune of P26 million. The Trust also gets its funds from other well wishers materially and financially. The Government of Botswana has since time immemorial been making people with disabilities her main concern and this could be reflected by the establishment of Sir Seretse Khama Memorial Fund which aims at providing supportive devices that provides Rehabilitation to People with Disabilities.

5. The introduction of the National Policy on the Care of People with Disabilities of 1996 (which is undergoing review) was a great milestone that began to shape the direction on service provision to People with Disabilities. It is through this policy that Special Education became an integral part of regular and non-formal education. It is through this Policy that guidelines to be used by local authorities and NGOs like
establishing and managing special education were instrumental in the training of specialists and professionals on all areas of special education in order to assist children and adults with learning difficulties and other conditions. It is through this Policy that Government through the Ministry of Health is continually providing disability prevention services, provision of primary Health Care and Hospital care programs.

6. Despite the strides achieved in attempt to empower PWDS, we have learnt that disability is diverse and therefore needs to be dealt with a more coordinated manner. We have also learnt as Government that People with Disabilities still face challenges such as Accessibility to infrastructures, information, education, employment and medication. They also face challenges in Transport, Rehabilitation and the society at large still has a negative attitude towards them. It is against this background that Government has taken a deliberate step to establish a Coordinating Office for PWDS in the Office of the President. The Office is set up to ultimately work towards improved quality of life for people with disabilities and efficient delivery of policies, strategies and programmes. The work includes setting direction and ensuring policy implementation; strategic leadership; public education and awareness; policy development and coordination.

7. Despite all these efforts, Government is aware and facing a mammoth task on the employment of people with special needs. Hence her appeal to the Private Sector, Batswana at large and Non-Governmental Organisations to change the perception towards people with special needs with regard to employment and recruitment. And as I speak to you right now a number of such people have already secured jobs in the private sector through the assistance of the office of the coordinator of PWD.

8. Ladies and gentlemen, we are very grateful to the Donors who continue to Organisations like these materially and financially. I am optimistic that with this support Camphill will continue to grow. I therefore urge their leadership to be focused and continue to spread their wings to other communities in an effort to show and help the people with special needs. This is evidenced by other centres of this nature, these are; Thuto Boswa in Ramotswa, Gaborone, Thamaga and Serowe.

9. Bagaetsho, let me take this opportunity to forward sincere gratitude to the President of Botswana, Lieutenant Seretse Khama Ian Khama for the award of Presidential Order of Meritorious Service to Werner Groth in Recognition of Exceptional Service to Botswana. This place will never be forgotten for empowering and giving hope to the hopeless in our society. PULA!!!

C. NOTICES & FORWARDING

C1) 27/9/10: Former President Mogae takes part in Clinton Global Citizen Awards

H.E. the Former President Festus Mogae last night joined other statespersons and Hollywood celebrities as a participant in this year’s Clinton Global Citizen Awards, which was globally televised from New York City last by CNBC. Awards were
established to honour individuals who have made an outstanding impact in philanthropy, government, civil society, and the corporate sector.

Former US President Clinton was the ceremony's host, which for the second year in a row was emceed by well known American comedian Ben Stiller along with CNBC News Anchor Maria Bartiromo.

Former President Mogae presented an award to Mr. Mo Ibrahim, who won this year's prize for Leadership in Philanthropy. In 2008 Mogae was himself the recipient of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation's Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.

Others presenting awards included H.E. Jean-Max Bellerive, Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti and film stars Maggie Gyllenhaal, Salma Hayek Pinault, and Kevin Spacey.

Eight-time Grammy-winning music legend Don Henley of the Eagles was among the musicians on hand to provide entertainment to the high profile event. Additional Clinton Global Citizen Awards winners where -

H.E. Dr. Leonel Fernandez, President of the Dominican Republic, Andrea Jung, Suraya Pakzad, and Dr. Jean Pape

Additional Information:

The televised Clinton Global Citizen Awards are a highlight of the now annual meetings of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) in New York, which year coincide with the Plenary Session of the Plenary session of the UN general Assembly.

CGI's Annual Meeting convenes global leaders to devise and implement solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

Award winners were nominated by a collection of global leaders and selected for their visionary leadership, demonstrated impact, and sustainable and scalable work in solving pressing global challenges. Honourees were chosen from government, civil society, the private sector, and the philanthropic community.

Established in 2007, the Clinton Global Citizen Awards embody President Bill Clinton's call to action by honouring outstanding individuals who exemplify global citizenship through their vision and leadership. These citizens have proven that diverse sectors of society can work together successfully to devise solutions that effect positive, lasting social change. Nominated by CGI members and other global leaders, honourees were chosen based on their innovative approaches, and on the demonstrated results and sustainability of their work. The awards are given to individuals who have shown ground-breaking leadership in four sectors: civil society, the corporate sector, philanthropy, and public service.

The Clinton Global Citizen Awards were launched in 2007. The 2007 winners were Andre Agassi, founder of the Andre Agassi Foundation; Fazle Hassan Abed, founder
of the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee; John Chambers, CEO of Cisco; and Vicky Colbert, founder of the Escuela Nueva Foundation. In 2008, the winners were Jennifer and Peter Buffett, co-chairs of the NoVo Foundation; Xiaoyi (Sheri) Liao, founder of the Global Village of Beijing; Julio Frenk, dean of the Harvard School of Public Health; and Nevill Isdell, then-chairman of the Coca-Cola Company. The 2009 winners were His Excellency Paul Kagame, president of the Republic of Rwanda; Asha Hagi Elmi Amin, chairperson of Save Somali Women and Children; Peter Bakker, chief executive officer of TNT; Dr. Rola Dashti, parliament member, State of Kuwait; Ruchira Gupta, president, Apne Aap Women Worldwide; Quincy Jones, founder, Quincy Jones Foundation.

About CGI

Established in 2005 by Former US President Bill Clinton, the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) convenes global leaders to devise and implement innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges. Since 2005, CGI Annual Meetings have brought together more than 125 current and former heads of state, 15 Nobel Peace Prize laureates, hundreds of leading CEOs, heads of foundations, major philanthropists, directors of the most effective nongovernmental organizations, and prominent members of the media. These CGI members have made more than 1,900 commitments valued at $63 billion, which have already improved the lives of nearly 300 million people in more than 170 countries. In 2009, the Annual Meeting was named the No. 1 conference for CEOs.

C2) 28/9/10: Vice President Merafhe addresses UN [Summary of Statement - full text B4]


In his statement His Honour noted Member States continued to find refuge in the United Nations Charter, and drew from the collective strength of the international community when individually faced with insurmountable challenges. He further noted that member states had to remain steadfast in their partnership for poverty eradication, pursuit of international peace and security, combating disease, promotion of youth empowerment, gender equality, promotion and protection of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, personal advancement through education, better health for all and harnessing technology for sustainable development.

He further observed that Botswana had abiding faith in the viability and primacy of the United Nations and faithfully fulfilled its obligations to the organization.

The Vice President noted that the review of the Millennium Development Goals accentuated the international community's strengths, weaknesses and vulnerabilities, individually and collectively, and for that reason efforts must be redoubled to implement the Goals in the remaining five years. Botswana was an upper-middle-income country, but still had many development challenges in an environment of diminished international support. The global food, energy and
financial crises made it evident countries such as Botswana were vulnerable; continued development assistance was needed for middle-income countries, lest their hard earned gains be reversed.

He stated that the need for reform of financial, economic and political architecture was more apparent than ever before. Botswana welcomed the strengthening of the United Nations operational activities for development, improved funding for development activities and improvement in women’s rights through the creation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.

He affirmed Botswana’s support for the strengthening of the Peace building Commission, through amending its founding resolutions and providing adequate resources. Disarmament and non-proliferation were essential for international peace and security, and his delegation welcomed progress in some areas, but was deeply concerned the Conference on Disarmament “continues to be deadlocked”.

Botswana was also committed to the objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and also fully supported developing countries' call for peaceful use of nuclear technology in such areas as agriculture, water management and medicine. But, such use needed to be transparent, in full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Botswana was concerned about threats to international peace and security and condemned, without reservation, any acts of terrorism. In this respect he did not believe that the 9/11 attacks were orchestrated by the United States.

He said the erosion of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law in some parts of the world urgently needed to be reversed, because it undermined the path to peace, stability and development. Botswana resolutely supported the International Criminal Court, which needed support to resolve outstanding arrest warrants against those indicted for the commission of serious crimes. He also welcomed the Rome Statute Review Conference decision to extend jurisdiction of the Court to cover the crime of aggression. On climate change, he said shared responsibility was most critical in the area of protecting the planet, and climate change has become one of humanity’s most daunting challenges.

The recent devastating natural disasters demonstrated the world's vulnerability, and the people of Botswana expressed sympathy with all victims of those disasters and extended appreciation of those who led humanitarian interventions. It also remained optimistic that the next Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would achieve success. [Full Text of Statement B4]

C3) 28/9/10: President’s Plane unable to land at Gakhibana this morning

This is to confirm that due to technical difficulties with the runway, H.E. the President's plane was unable to land in the vicinity of Gakhibana this morning and as a result had to turn back. As such His Excellency was not able to take part in the official opening as was planned.
At no time was His Excellency of his party in serious danger, as the problem was on the ground.

His Excellency has returned to Gaborone were he has resumed his normal schedule.

C4) 28/9/10: Remarks by US Secretary of State Hillary Rodman Clinton on Botswana's National Day, US State Department, Washington, D.C. -

On behalf of President Obama and the people of the United States, I congratulate the people of Botswana on your National Day this September 30.

The United States and Botswana have a vibrant partnership rooted in our common values and interests, and our shared history. On this occasion, we celebrate the enduring friendship between our two countries.

Botswana is a model of stability in Southern Africa and continues to provide leadership on vital regional issues. Our strong and growing partnership to build economic prosperity, promote democratic governance, combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and conserve the environment is evidence of what we can achieve with close cooperation and mutual respect.

The United States values our relationship with Botswana and your commitment to addressing regional and global challenges through international collaboration. We look forward to expanding our partnership to new areas in the future.

I wish the Batswana people happiness and continued success as you celebrate your national day.

C5) 29/9/10: DPSM's Response to this Week's Media Reports on TAWU/BOGOWU and DPSM Mediation

Please find below press statement issued today by the Director of Public Service Management, F.S. Bakwena -

Whist it is true that the Directorate of Public Service Management appeared before the Mediator appointed by the Commissioner of Labour and Social Security to mediate over the following disputes: deadlock on the Constitution of the Bargaining Council; Employers Representatives holding Trade Union Membership; and Favouritism and exclusion by the Employer, we are not aware of a ruling by the Mediator to the effect that the Public Service Bargaining Council registration should be suspended. Registration of the Public Service Bargaining Council was never discussed at the mediation hearing.

The Employer made her position very clear that the dispute regarding the draft Constitution of the Bargaining Council was wrongly brought for mediation as issues...
bordering on the legal interpretation of certain provisions of the Public Service Act, 2008. Furthermore, the draft Constitution is a joint product of the Employer as one party and recognised Unions as the other party. As such the Employer regards all recognised trade unions as one party and should not be held responsible for the differences amongst members of the Union party.

The Employer and the majority of the Unions adopted the draft constitution while TAWU and BOGOWU rejected the adoption on the grounds that they disagreed fundamentally with certain clauses of the draft Constitution. Presently, parties are preparing to submit the application for registration of the Council to the Commissioner of Labour and Social Security in accordance with the provisions of section 51(3) of the Public Service Act No. 30 of 2008. The application will indicate the agreements and disagreements amongst the parties.

On the issue regarding Employer's representatives in the negotiations of the draft Constitution holding trade union membership, the Employer acknowledged having received a communication to that effect and that a response was drafted but not yet despatched as the matter was brought for mediation. The Employer however indicated at the mediation hearing that they were not aware of any members of management holding union membership and that if Unions are aware of such employees they should bring it to the attention of the Employer for appropriate action. The Mediator therefore ruled straightway that this matter be withdrawn pending written response from the Employer to aforesaid Unions.

The Employer's favouritism and exclusion as alleged by BOGOWU and TAWU is totally unfounded. These Unions were not sidelined from processes pertaining to the establishment of the Bargaining Council. BOGOWU was initially left out of the process as it was not recognised by the Employer at the initial stage of drafting the Constitution of the Bargaining Council. TAWU has always been involved as a member of the Reference Committee on the Merging of Acts governing employment in the Public Service and even represented all Teachers Unions in the benchmarking exercise on bargaining structures. The Reference Committee thereafter resolved to appoint a Joint Interim Secretariat comprising three members from the trade unions' side and the three members from the Employer's side. Teachers unions, including TAWU, nominated the President of BOSETU, to represent them in the Joint Interim Secretariat, which developed a number of draft working documents including the draft Constitution of the Council.

It is unfortunate that where TAWU and BOGOWU's comments on the draft Constitution are not accepted by other parties to the bargaining process this is interpreted as exclusion and discrimination.

C6) 27/9/10: Former President Mogae to hold lecture series, leadership workshop at Ohio University

Ohio University in the USA has confirmed that His Excellency Former President Festus Mogae will be holding a series of lectures and public events at their institution
"We are very proud to have him here," said Dr. Steve Howard, the director of the African Studies Program. "It is especially significant since Ohio University has had more than a 20-year relationship with Botswana and we are making more connections."

Howard said this relationship was formed with OU faculty helping train teachers in Botswana and professors from the University Of Botswana coming to OU to earn their bachelor's degrees. And currently, Alden is the only governmental depository for documents of Botswana.

"Over 30 alumni are in Botswana working in the education sector in areas of development. There are 6 or 7 faculty who spent time living in Botswana who lead these projects," Howard said.

This trip has been in the making since 2007, said Beatrice Selotlegeng, a Motswana currently working at OU as the director of the Cardinal Health Junior Executive Business Program for Minorities, the Coordinator of the Diversity Recruitment and Retention Programs within the College of Business.

While at OU Mogae will be giving lectures in conjunction with the Centre for International Studies, College of Business and College of Education. Selotlegeng said that each event will be focused on each area and the international components which affect it.

Mogae will also be holding a workshop with the African Student Union with a focus on leadership.

"We have many African students who come here and go into their various disciplines but it is important for them to get leadership skills and that is going to be a focus not that workshop," Selotlegeng said.

At the Centre for International Studies event tonight Dr. Daniel Weiner, director of the Centre for International Studies said Mogae will be discussing the importance of education for development, leadership and economic development and will also focus on the role of good government.

"I think anytime you have a head of state coming it's a great opportunity," Weiner said. "We have a strong and active African program and we have a lot of African students, and this is a good opportunity for them to learn about leadership and can take what he has to say back with them to their countries and be leaders."

D. PROFILES OF THIS YEARS RECIPIENTS OF PRESIDENTIAL HONOURS AND AWARDS -
27/9/10: This afternoon His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana Lt. Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, in accordance with the Botswana Honours Act Cap 03:06, conferred Honours and Awards on 27 distinguished individuals, including several collaborating couples, for their diverse services to the nation. Below please find a full list of this year’s awards and awardees, with profiles -

I. PRESIDENTIAL ORDER OF HONOUR (PH)

The Presidential Order of Honour is awarded for efficient and devoted service to the Republic of Botswana

1) Patrick Kediretswe Balopi

Mr. Balopi is a teacher by profession, a politician, commercial farmer and a businessman. He served for twelve and a half years as Executive Secretary of the ruling Botswana Democratic Party and for twenty years as an elected Member of Parliament for the Francistown Constituency. He also served for fourteen years in a number of Ministries as a Cabinet Minister after which he voluntarily retired from active politics. He was later to be invited to serve as the Speaker of the National Assembly where he chaired a number of Presidential Commissions, notably the Land Tenure Commission and The 2000 Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Sections 77, 78 & 79 of the Botswana Constitution, what is commonly known as "the Balopi Commission". He also chaired the SADC Parliamentary forum for two years. Mr. Balopi is currently engaged in commercial farming and serious business with his latest business project being the development of the state of the art, self catering Holiday Resort and Conference Centre in Kasane/Kazungula in the Chobe District under the name, Bridgetown Resort (Pty) Ltd. This concept has the potential to empower over 4000 citizens in the lucrative Tourism Industry.

2) MacDonald Mmolaatlou Seema

Mr. Seema rose through the ranks in the Public Service, from a very junior position of Clerk to the senior post of Deputy Permanent Secretary applying himself with distinction. Among the several positions he has held in Government include that of Deputy Accountant General, Administrative Secretary (MFDP), Deputy Director of Personnel (now DPSM). Mr. Seema is a self-built, diligent and multi-skilled person whose service is not only exemplary but pioneering as well. He helped build the Public Service structures and standards and is considered one of the key architects of the General Orders which include the Public Service Charter which have stood the test of time. Although he has not authored a book, Mr. Seema is a good source of information on the history of the Public Service of Botswana. Therefore, he is one of the few Batswana considered to have institutional memory on the historical development of the Public Service.

3) Ambrose Basipo Masalila

Mr. Masalila has worked for the Public Service of Botswana for a long time, in different capacities and in the various districts and ended his career as the
Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government. He is especially well
internationally remembered for marrying international celebrities such as Richard
Burton and Elizabeth Taylor as the District Commissioner in Kasane. Mr. Masalila is
an active Politician, having been Assistant Minister and Member of Parliament until
the last General Elections in 2009. Therefore, Mr. Masalila is one of the key
Batswana considered to have institutional memory of the history of the development
of Local Government in Botswana.

4) Benjamin Gaontebale Makobole

Mr. Makobole has been a career civil servant and a diplomat, having started his
career as a District Officer, progressing to District Commissioner, to Undersecretary
and to Permanent Secretary all in the then Ministry of Local Government and Lands
from 1968 to 1978. He then served as Permanent Secretary in the then Ministry of
Commerce and Industry from 1978 to 1981, when he retired from the Public Service.
Mr. Makobole is credited for his contribution towards developing Local Government
in Botswana where he spent most of his service career. He was appointed the High
Commissioner of Botswana to Zimbabwe as a resident diplomat from 1994 to 1999
where he was also accredited to Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Lesotho and
Swaziland. As High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, Mr. Makobole also served as the
Deputy Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Dean-Africa Group and Dean-Commonwealth
Group. He also contributed much of his quality time during and after his career
serving the following Boards/Councils/Commissions/ Committees; Botswana Housing
Corporation, Botswana Development Corporation, Town & Country Planning,
Gaborone Holiday Inn, Botswana Diamond Industries, National Development Bank,
Botswana Meat Commission, Debswana diamond Company, Rural Industries
Promotions, rural Development Council, Botswana Book Centre, Gaborone City
Council - Valuation Court Member (Ex), National Licensing Authority (Ex),
Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Sections 77, 78 & 79 of Botswana
Constitution (The famous Balopi Commission) - 2000, Presidential Commission of
Inquiry on Salaries and Conditions of Service of the President, Vice President,
Ministers, MPs, Councillors, Members of House of Chiefs (The Dibotelo Commission)
- 2007, SADC Election Observer Missions for Zimbabwe General Elections (2004) and
Zimbabwe Presidential Elections (Re-Run 2008), Botswana Police Council (Ex),
Botswana Democratic Party Electoral Board (current member), John Sisk (PTY) Ltd
(Botswana) - HQ Dublin, Ireland (current member), Botswana Football Association -
Football Appeal Fund (current), Anglican Schools Task force (current), Anglican
Cathedral Parish Council (current).

5) Norman Seduma Moleboge

Mr. Moleboge has been a career policeman moving through the police ranks from
Police Constable to the highest position of Commissioner of Police. He has been a
member of high ranking security forum such as the National Security Intelligence
Committee where his expertise in security matters was valuable. Mr. Moleboge has
also been the Botswana High Commissioner to the Republic of Namibia, also
accredited to Ghana and Angola on Non-Residential basis. He is the recipient of a
Botswana Police Meritorious Service (BMP), Long Service and Good Conduct, Police Jubilee Service Medal (PJSM), Police Distinguished Service Order (DSO) as well as SARPECCO Founder Members Gold Medal. Mr. Moleboge has distinguished himself throughout his service, playing a crucial role in the development of Botswana Police Service thereby effectively contributing to its overall objective of “public protection and safety”.

II. THE PRESIDENTIAL ORDER OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE (PMS)

The Presidential Order of Meritorious Service (PMS) is an honour awarded to any person for actions or services benefiting Botswana or any community or organization therein in any particular field or sphere and for any acts or devotion to duty.

6) Bill Gates and Melinda Gates

Bill and Melinda Gates, through their Foundation the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has partnered with the Government of Botswana and The Merck Company Foundation to form The African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP). The objective of ACHAP is to support and enhance Botswana’s response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic through a comprehensive approach to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support. From 2001 to 2009, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and The Merck Company Foundation have together committed $106.5 million to the partnership and in 2009 a further $60 million up until 2014. In addition to this, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation further committed $4.75 million towards providing computers and free internet access in 78 Public Libraries. So far eighteen 18 public Libraries have been provided with free internet service while arrangements are underway for the remaining.

7) The Merck Company Foundation, Richard T Clark, Chairman and CEO of Merck.

The African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP) is a public private development partnership involving The Merck Company Foundation, Botswana Government and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that was established to support and enhance Botswana’s response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic through a comprehensive approach to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support. From 2001 to 2009, The Merck Company Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have together committed $106.5 Million to the partnership and in 2009 a further $60 million up until 2014. Merck, which operates as MSD outside of the US and Canada, is also donating its antiretroviral (ARV) medicines to Botswana’s National ARV treatment program known as Masa for the duration of the partnership.

8) Bob and Sara Rothschild

Bob and Sara Rothschild, through their Foundation, The Rothschild Foundation, are building, two (2x) Libraries per annum over a ten (10) year period from 2007 to 2017 as a donation to The Government and people of Botswana. So far, a total of six (6) Libraries have been built and ground breaking has been done for the two (2) Libraries planned for this year. The Rothschild Foundation Libraries are special
9) Tim and June Liversedge

Tim and June Liversedge are the two reputable film producers of the ROAR- Lions of the Kalahari (2000) which excited the world in 2004. They have contributed enormously to the worldwide understanding and appreciation of Botswana wildlife which forms a greater part of Botswana Tourism. Tim has been honoured with a Doctorate of Philosophy by the University of Orange Free State for his contribution to the ecology of Botswana and for subsequent production of the many films portraying Botswana and the behaviour of its wildlife. Due to his wealth of knowledge about Botswana's wildlife, Tim was made the final judge at the world's top three wildlife and environmental film festivals in the UK and USA. He has completed thousands of hours of flight time predominately over the Makgadikgadi and Okavango regions of Botswana. Tim published the first in-depth study on Pel's Fishing Owl and presented a Paper at the 4th Pan African Congress in 1977. He undertook an independent study on flamingo ecology on the Makgadikgadi Pans. Tim has also worked with the Smithsonian Institution of Washington on a countrywide mammal survey of Botswana which discovered new mammals and provided new information and thousands of specimens.

10) Dereck and Beverly Joubert

Dereck and Beverly Joubert have represented Botswana internationally through explorers in residence society with the National Geographic Channel, the first Botswana representation ever. Their films are regularly seen on television around the world, bringing up Botswana's flora and fauna to hundreds of millions of homes. They have won Emmys and other top international prizes and have worked tirelessly to promote conservation. Dereck and Beverly have received local and international awards for films and books that have showcased and promoted Botswana worldwide.

11) Steven G. Harpt

Steven Harpt is a former teacher and Head teacher in a number of schools in Botswana over the past 19 years. He started Bana-ba-metsi school at Sekonduko in the Okavango in 2000 with the objective to cater for the youth at risk, specifically primary school drop-outs. Bana-ba-metsi school combines academic instruction and practical work in order to teach the students "life skills" for their survival. The school has a maximum capacity of 50 students all of whom are in danger of being a burden to society if they are not rehabilitated. To date, 114 students have graduated from the school out of whom 28 are attending Junior Secondary School, 49 have completed Junior Secondary education and 4 have completed Senior Secondary education. Bana-ba-metsi is therefore a rehabilitation institution without which the students' life could be in the danger of being disrupted forever.

12) Alexander McCall Smith
Mr. Alexander McCall Smith is an author of over sixty books on a wide array of subjects among which is the award-winning series, "The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency" now a major television film by Academy Award-winning Director Anthony Minghella, Starring Jill Scott. The No.1 Ladies' detective which was filmed in Botswana, showcases Botswana characters and culture to the world. The comedy-drama ran for seven episodes on BBC HBO, in 2008-09. Mr. McCall Smith could not attend this important occasion as he is promoting Botswana in Sweden today (the 27th September, 2010), through a Book Fair which is organised around him.

III. THE PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATE OF HONOUR (PCH)

The Presidential Certificate of Honour (P.C.H) is a certificate awarded for outstanding statesmanship.

13) Dr. Joseph Moeketsi Makhema, MB. Chb., F.R.C.P

Dr. Makhema is the Chief Executive of Botswana Harvard Aids Institute Partnership for HIV Research and Evaluation in Botswana from September 2009 to date. He has worked as a specialist Physician at Princess Marina Hospital from 1993 to 1997, Consultant Physician at Gaborone Private Hospital from 1997 to date, Senior Clinical Research Manager and Co-Director of Botswana-Harvard School of Public Health AIDS Initiative Partnership (BHP) from 2003 to 2006 and as Project Director of BHP from 2006 to 2009. Dr Makhema has extensive experience in HIV and AIDS research in Botswana. He has contributed his quality time and expertise to the following Committees, Boards, Councils, the University of Botswana Council, the Dean’s Planning Committee of the University of Botswana Medical School, Botswana Health Professions Council, Technical Advisory Council (Bristol Myers Squibb "Secure the Future"), Botswana National Youth Council, etc. He has written more than 20 Publications in various health issues mostly in HIV and AIDS in Botswana.

14) Lucretia Gaseinewe Koodibetse

Ms Lucretia Koodibetse has worked for more than 30 years in Botswana Health Care Services as, a bedside Nurse across the country, a Lecturer at the Institute of Health Sciences, a Quality System Auditor, a Performance Improvement Coordinator and a trainer for Palliative Care all in the Ministry of Health. Ms Koodibetse started off by offering voluntary services to Botswana Retired Nurses Society (BORNUS) in 2005 before she became the Programme Manager. The objective of BORNUS is to create conducive environment for home based care patients by empowering care givers with the necessary skills and the right attitudes for caring for the sick. Ms Koodibetse has helped develop the first Quality Manual at BORNUS. Amongst the Awards she has received for meticulous service include, Women of the year for outstanding community service by the American Board Association in 1999, the Florence Nightingale Award by the International Red Cross Society in 2003 and the Meritorious Award by the Nurses Association of Botswana in 2007.

15) Joyce Gainewe Andersen
Ms Andersen is a Woman activist, Human Rights activist and Environmental activist. She worked for the Public Service for a long time and retired as Coordinator of Women's Affairs Department. Ms Andersen is an active facilitator and trainer for Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). To her credit, are the numerous documents she has authored such as, the training of trainer's manual for Election observers and monitors, the training manual on how to write stories, the training manual for Community Based Organizations. Ms Andersen is a member of the various Boards and Associations including the Sir Seretse Khama Memorial Fund for People with Disabilities.

16) Roslyn Ross Tebele

Mr. Tebele's passion for sports paved the way for him as a wellness promoter and gym instructor, professions he is still pursuing today, despite his age. Mr. Tebele instructs at some of the prominent gyms in Gaborone such as Gym Active, G/West Fitness Centre, Superfit Gym, DTCB Gym etc. He also runs wellness days for many private and Government organizations such as DPSM, Botswana Police Service, Sports Council etc. He co-founded the "Association of parents and friends of people who are mentally retarded" in 1989. The Association later joined up with Special Olympics, an Association providing sporting activities to people with intellectual disabilities which he is still heading but is working on transferring skills to other people. Through this Association, Mr. Tebele led Botswana Special Olympics to World Games in the USA, Ireland and China from where the athletes brought home, Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. For the 2007 Games in China, 3 Gold, 2 Silver and 3 Bronze were brought home. Preparations for the 2011 Greece World Games are underway and participation will be in Judo, Swimming and Athletics against 170 Countries.

17) Jeremiah Billy Gabaake

Mr. Gabaake is an educationist, having worked for 18 years in the various education fields namely, as a Teacher, Headmaster, Assistant Education Officer and Advisor to the Education Committee. He was an active member of the Botswana Teachers Union (BTU) and Botswana Civil Servants Association (BCSA) where he held high positions of Assistant Secretary General and Vice President respectively. Mr. Gabaake progressed through the hierarchy of the Public Service from Senior District Labour Officer to Head of the Training and Localisation Unit and to Undersecretary Ministry of Health. He then joined Botswana Telecommunication Services as Manager, Corporate Services and a Member of Parliament where he served as Chairman of the Law Reform Committee, Secretary of the Parliamentary House Committee and a member of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly in Brussels, Belgium. Amongst his other contributions include, the Chairmanship of the Advisory Committee of the Commonwealth Regional Health secretariat for Southern African States, Secretariat of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry regarding the shooting down of the Presidential jet over Angola in which was travelling Former President Masire, Headship of the Secretariat of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Sections 77, 78 and 79 of the Constitution of Botswana, Board Member of Phutha-Dikobo
18) Andrew Sesinyi

Mr. Sesinyi is a retired Public Officer, Diplomat, Journalist and an Author. He is well known for his radio work and creative writing. He authored a number of books among them, Love on the Rocks (1991). Rassie (1992), Carjack (2000), Shadows of Birth (2010) and Goodbye to Power (2010). He served as Senior Private and Press Secretary for former President Mogae and as Director of Broadcasting Services as well as Deputy Permanent Secretary. Mr. Sesinyi has been the Secretary General of the Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa (URTNA) in Dakar, Senegal where he managed continental broadcast networking and transformed the URTNA into the present day successful African Union of Broadcasters (AUB). He has contributed and continues to contribute his time generously as Master of Ceremonies at local and international gatherings including state banquets, Presidential receptions, national beauty pageants, state receptions etc. Mr. Sesinyi has recently joined one of the local Radio Stations part-time mainly to, "transfer skills and build capacity for the youth."

19) Michael Masheto

Mr. Masheto is a community builder and leader, having volunteered to mould bricks to construct the then only classroom at Moreomaoto Primary School. He therefore single handedly motivated Moreomaoto community to build the existing primary school in Moreomaoto from which a lot of children have and are continuing to graduate from. He also volunteered his time as chairperson of VDC from 1965 to 1968 where a number of projects were undertaken for the community.

20) Solomon Bame Monyame

Mr. Monyame is an Executive Producer, Producer, Song Writer and Musician who has performed as one or more of the above functions with ten (10) Artists, producing fifteen (15) Albums. In addition, Mr. Monyame is a presenter, having shown his talent at RB 2 Radio and Gabz FM's popular morning show, "Hot potato" with the late Lettie Gaelesiwe. He is a very creative and innovative person having started Botswana's first Commercial Music Production Studio "Mud hut", founded member of Botswana's 1st Pop Group "Tribal Monks", Started Record Label "Small House Records", launched Botswana's 1st all Girl band "Brown Sugar", founded member & Vice Chair of the "Press Council of Botswana" and established Botswana's First Local Music Content Catalogue. Mr. Monyame has been the Music Supervisor in the "Number 1 Ladies Detective Agency" which won the "Peabody Award" while the Music Score in which many Batswana Artists participated, was nominated for the "Emmy Award". He is the winner of a number of awards including, The Pan African Broadcasting Heritage and Achievement Award for Best Male Radio personality in Africa 2001 and Channel "O" Best Dance Song in Africa for "Banyana le Basimane" by Acid (Executive Producer). He contributes his time generally to projects of
21) Bishy Mmusi

Mr. Mmusi is a reputable Journalist and News Reader who progressed through the hierarchy to become the Deputy Director in the then Department of Information and Broadcasting Services where he retired from the Public Service. He then joined Botswana Telecommunications Authority as Director of Broadcasting Regulatory and a member of the National Broadcasting Board as well. From Botswana Telecommunication Authority Mr. Mmusi joined Botswana Television and Radio Botswana as Broadcasting Advisor, ploughing back his valuable skills and experience he gained over the years in the Broadcasting Industry. Mr. Mmusi is considered one of the best news reader ever produced in Botswana.

22) Beata Botlhoko Kasale

Beata Kasale is a Woman Publisher, Consultant, Journalist and Human Rights Activist and Author. She authored a book called, The Treasure in the Garden Published by Heinemann, UK. She pioneered and co-founded the famous Newspaper, "The Voice", a weekly tabloid with a print run of between 32 000 and 35 000 copies making it the highest circulating private newspaper in Botswana with offices in Gaborone and Francistown. She is an active consultant in the Media Industry having undertaken various consultancy work for various Donor Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations such as; Facilitating the "Women in News Programme" for women in Botswana, Namibia and Zambia, training locals for the Washington DC based International Women's Media Foundation aimed at improving the quality of reporting health issues especially HIV/AIDS, conducted needs assessment for the study on reporting on HIV/AIDS in Botswana for PANOS Institute of Southern Africa, facilitated PEEPA Workshop on the training of Botswana journalist on reporting Privatization, compiled a report for the Ministry of Health on Alcohol and other Substance Abuse in the context of HIV/AIDS etc. Beata Kasale has also contributed her quality time and knowledge to; the Vision 2016 Awards Adjudicator as Chairperson, Publishers Forum as Interim Chairperson, The African Media Barometer Panel as member, International Editors Exchange Fellowship as member, Botswana Media Consultative Council (BMCC) as chairperson, Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) as member.

23) Eva Kerileng Mwila

Ms Mwila is a former sports person and is currently into sports administration. She is the former winner of 100m-200m Zonal and National Senior Girls Champion Athletics in Secondary Schools, 4x4 school and zonal girls relay and represented Botswana in Senior Girls 100m and 200m athletics competitions in secondary schools outside the country. She has been President of Botswana Netball Association and Executive Committee member of Botswana National Sports Council (BNSC). She lead Botswana Netball Association to All Africa Games as a Team Manager, represented Botswana Netball Congress in Singapore, Lead Senior National Netball Team to the
and is the current Secretary General of the Confederation of Southern African Netball Associations (Zone VI), representing Botswana Netball Association. Ms Mwila has represented Botswana Youth at the United Nations Youth Conference in New York. She has served in the various departments of Barclays Bank of Botswana throughout the country and is current the Head of Business Banking North covering Francistown, Maun, Kasane, Selebi Phikwe and Central District Council. She contributes her time generously to community projects and to the corporate world as Board member of various organizations.

24) Ditshwele Kereng

Mr. Kereng is an Environmental Activist and a successful farmer. He is a member of the South East District Conservation Group and Sakutswane Conservation Group which he established. Some of his valuable contribution as an environmentalist include among others, initiating the restoration of A4HA Area at Sakutswane, encouraging Sakutswane community to conserve and manage renewable natural resources through sustainable use, initiating the rehabilitation of the degraded areas in the fields, sensitizing Sakutswane community on illegal entrance into private properties, initiating construction of Mnamenwe Dam as well as initiating the construction of Crush at Sakutswane.

25) Tsaxlae Martha Xao

Ms Xao is a woman leader and community builder from a less privileged community of Basarwa. She has generally contributed her time tirelessly and volunteered in the following committees e.g. VDC as Treasurer, Kuiku Community Trust as Secretary, Member of the Conservation Committee and a Member of the Land Board. She is the first Manager of Habitat for Humanity in Gantsi, she worked at Grootlagte Cooperative Society and at Perma Culture. Ms Xae is currently the Headman of Grootlagte Community and member of Ntlo ya Dikgosi from Gantsi effectively representing her people in a male dominated House.

26) Ndingo Johwa

Mr. Johwa is a well known producer and musician who has popularized traditional Ikalanga compositions and culture in the country through his music. He is also a businessman running an Ostrich Farm and a Construction Company. He recorded his first album called, Phondanyama which is a sacred name for ancestors, meaning to kill an animal by strangulation. This became a hit song. So far he has five albums to his name which all became top charts both locally and in the neighbouring Zimbabwe and South Africa. Mr. Johwa has been involved in some jazz festivals in Botswana and South Africa and in many charity shows, raising funds for AIDS campaigns and homeless children. His latest album, Batalaunda is a favourite hit to many people. Mr. Johwa’s music is known as Ikajazz, meaning Ikalanga Jazz. It originates from the traditional Ikalanga folk music namely; Hoso, Iperu, Ndazula and Mkomoto. These are complimented by traditional dance movements which are a pleasure to watch when performed.
Mme Morake was born in 1910 in Makaleng. Her family moved to Tonota where she began her schooling at the London Missionary Society School (LMS). There were no subjects taught, but simply to read and write in Setswana. Through her membership of the LMS church, she learnt to read the Bible and taught bible studies "dikaelo" to young girls in the village. With her sewing machine, she ran business making men's trousers and repairing them. She also employed people in her field, paying them up to six bags of sorghum depending on their output. Like many Batswana at the time, she sustained her livelihood through arable and pastoral farming. She remains an active member of the UCCSA church today at 100 years. Asked what she would do if given her youth again, she said she would pursue modern knowledge and technology. She believes that parenthood today leaves a lot to be desired and is concerned that the term "abuse" has played a major part in undermining discipline and order in today's society.

E. ALSO IN THE NEWS: BOTSWANA FROM OUTSIDE

NB: News reports, statements and/or views reproduced below are NOT necessarily those of Government of Botswana.

E1) 30/9/10: From Scotsman Newspaper (UK) "Alexander McCall Smith proves No.1 hit in home of his lady detective" By Tim Cornwell

THE novels of best-selling Edinburgh author Alexander McCall Smith have transformed the international image of Botswana through the gentle figure of his heroine. Precious Ramotswe and her No.?1 Ladies' Detective Agency. And now Botswana's president is to bestow one of the African nation's top awards on the writer.

Mr McCall Smith came to know its people when he taught at the University of Botswana in the early 1980s.

He was made a CBE in Britain in 2006 but said yesterday he was "very, very pleased" after Botswana's President Ian Khama awarded him the Presidential Order of Meritorious Service.

He is currently working on the 12th book in the Ladies' Detective Agency series, with The Saturday Big Tent Wedding Party due to be published next March. "I think the books probably helped the positive projection of the country," said Mr McCall Smith, who travels to Botswana every year and expects to pick up his award in the spring.

His long involvement in Botswana has included constructing and supporting an opera house there.

On a trip to Stockholm this week, the author appeared at a reception run by the Botswana Embassy to promote tourism and trade.
"They are keen to attract investment because it's a case of an economy which is pretty reliant on a single product, diamonds," he said. "Botswana is a very reliable partner for investors.

"I am delighted to have received this honour. I had not expected it and I am very touched by this gesture. I have the highest respect for the country and its people. If my books have helped to correct a negative image of African then I am very happy that this is the case."

The adventures of Mma Ramotswe, the "traditionally built" Botswanan who takes a soothing approach to solving crimes and personal problems over cups of tea, have been seen as an antidote to the more clichéd visions of Africa as ravaged by war, disease, and corruption.

It is not known whether President Khama is a fan, but several other people in his government have read the books, said Mr McCall Smith. He praised Botswana for keeping its diamond industry "scrupulously regulated" and using the proceeds to pay for health, education and roads.

Since Botswana became independent in 1966 "they have built up a remarkable country, very cautiously and very well. They had a very good start with the current president's father," joked Sir Seretse Khama, who held office from 1966 to 1980.

THE No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency was first published by Polygon in Edinburgh in 1998 and has since been translated into more than 45 languages.

The book grew from a stand-alone novel into a series with sales of more than 20 million copies in the English language alone. Alexander McCall Smith has a contract to write 14 novels in the series. A film adaptation, directed by Anthony Minghella and starring jazz singer and actress Jill Scott, has been broadcast on the BBC. Mr McCall Smith said yesterday that two further films were planned.

E2) 30/9/10: From VOA (USA) - "Botswana Celebrates 44 Years of Independence" by Peter Clottey

The spokesman for Botswana's government said the administration is fully prepared for nationwide celebrations Thursday to mark the country's 44th independence from Britain.

Jeff Ramsay also welcomed U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's message of good will praising Botswana's peace and stability, as well as its strong democratic credentials on a continent often plagued with conflicts.

"Today is our 44th birthday and we are all having a good time. It's a lovely season in our country, as well as being a lovely day. At 44, we have come out of an economic downturn, our economy is back up and so we are very much on track and feeling good."
Ramsay praised successive governments for what he described as building up the country.

"When we became independent in 1966, we were one of the five poorest countries in the world. And, not only we were poor in terms of income, but we had no infrastructure to speak of. The only road in our country, the only paved one, that is to say, was something that was built so that the British royal family could go from our train station to the district commissioner's house in 1948."

Secretary Clinton said in her statement the United States and Botswana have a vibrant partnership rooted in common values, interests and a shared history.

"Our strong and growing partnership to build economic prosperity, promote democratic governance, combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and conserve the environment is evidence of what we can achieve with close cooperation and mutual respect. The United States values our relationship with Botswana and your commitment to addressing regional and global challenges through international collaboration. We look forward to expanding our partnership to new areas in the future," the statement read.

Secretary Clinton also wished the people of Botswana happiness as they celebrate 44 years of independence. Botswana is widely regarded as a model for democracy in the southern African region. Ramsay said Botswana will continue to have stronger ties with the U.S.

E3) 30/9/10: From MSN (India) - "Botswana athletes celebrate Independence Day"

New Delhi, Sep 30 (PTI) Miles away from their country, Botswana athletes and officials today chilled out at Games Village and later left for their embassy to celebrate Botswana's Independence Day.

"Today is our independence day and we are now headed to our embassy to celebrate it," an official of the Botswana delegation told PTI as he waited outside the village along with his team for their bus.

Asked if there was anything special for them today in the Village, an athlete said, "We just chilled out and had some great food."

Standing outside in the scorching sun, he added, "It is really hot out here. Botswana is also very hot but not like this."

Talking about the facilities inside the sprawling village, the official said, "Everything is fine. We are having a great time here. People are very nice." PTI SAP PM

E4) Middletown Journal articles covering Botswana at 2010 Middfest Event in Ohio USA
MIDDLETOWN - Guests at Middfest have talked a lot over the years about their countries, but this year, they have done more than just talk. This year, volunteers have taken DNA swabs of the inside of their mouths to trace where their ancestors come from. The tests are provided by National Genographic, and the tests will be discussed at Middfest this weekend.

Adriane Scherrer, the executive director of the We Can Business Incubator, discovered "we're all pretty much from Botswana," which is this year's featured country. "My map says I originally came from Botswana." Scherrer initially took the test for her own benefit, because she was researching biological family members she only recently discovered. She thought it might be interesting for many people to take the test to find out their backgrounds.

Dora Bronston, the local president of the NAACP, said she took the test also, and her test didn't say exactly where her ancestors came from, but pinpointed the general area as southern Africa, which is in Botswana's general vicinity.

The test, called The Genographic Project, won't be administered at Middfest, but there will be information about it, as well as photos and other memorabilia from people who took the test, Bronston said. "What I gained for myself was like an adventure," she said. "It allows me to see how detailed the science is."

The test kit costs $99 and the results are obtained from a DNA sampling taken in the mouth. The DNA samples are sent in to National Genographic, which sends the subject back their results, which arrive in four to six weeks.

The Genographic Project will be discussed over the weekend in room 4B on the fourth floor of the City Building.

E4b) Botswana comes alive with tale of boy and his dog Author, storyteller visit second-graders at Miller Ridge Elementary

MIDDLETOWN - As Bontekanye Botumile was leaving Middletown's Miller Ridge Elementary, second-grader Nadia Oden gave her a big bear hug. "Good stories," Nadia said.

Minutes earlier, Botumile and local children's author, Marilyn Patrick were in Nadia's classroom telling tales of Botswana. Botumile is a storyteller and author who resides in Maun, Botswana.

The country also is the setting of Patrick's new book and the featured country at this year's Middfest, beginning Friday. The pair spoke to Miller Ridge's three second-grade classrooms.
Patrick's book is about a boy, Cheeyo, and his dog, Mossy. As Cheeyo is working on his farm, Mossy spots a passing safari car and follows it off the farm. Cheeyo then sets out find his pet, and eventually discovers the dog baby-sitting infant meerkats. The book underscores friendship and caretaking.

The book is littered with words in Setswana, a language widely spoken in the country. "The children loved the vocabulary, said Marcia McGee, one of the second-grade teachers hosting the pair. "It's exotic, different."

As the two were reading in teacher Karin Amburgey's classroom, Patrick was reading of meerkats carrying baskets on their heads. The act is common in the country, and it gave Botumile an idea. She stood up, grabbing assorted classrooms objects - a water bottle and crate of books - and balanced them on her head, much to the students' delight.

"When I was younger I would go down to the river and come back with buckets of water and balance them on my head," she said. "It's good for your posture, and your hands are free." Michael Lolli, Miller Ridge principal, was sitting in on the class and shook his head. "I can't even walk and chew gum at the same time," he said.

Patrick and Botumile will do readings at Middfest Saturday and Sunday. The authors will sell books for $10. Botumile also will be featured from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, at the West Chester Twp. branch of the Middletown Public Library, located at 9363 Centre Pointe Drive.

E4c) Wrangler returns to Middfest with exotic wildlife

MIDDLETOWN- The sign outside Marge McIntosh's home says, "Middfest host family," but it could also say, "Beware of crocodiles and snakes."

That's because McIntosh's guest this week is Basil Mills of South Africa, who has returned to help with Middfest for a fourth time. He is best known for his work with wild animals, including the aforementioned crocs and snakes - very large snakes.

"We won't let him go," said McIntosh. And that was fine by Mills. "This is my family now. It's great to be back ... Marge doesn't mind having snakes and crocs in her house," he said.

Previously, Mills visited Middfest when it featured his home country of South Africa in 1999, during the 20-year retrospective in 2002, the indigenous people's spotlight in 2005. This time, he is seeking permission to take animal's to this weekend's celebration of Botswana, including giraffes and zebras. Whether animals that exotic
Mills has been to Botswana several times as a rancher who worked with the Bushmen there. "It's a wonderful, diverse country. It's a magic world, and a really friendly place with so much to offer. It's a vibrant, safe and welcoming destination," he said.

Just as Mills has performed many services for Middfest over the years, Middfest has also helped Mills. "I get a lot of knowledge exchanging ideas with various folks. I take the ideas back and try to apply them," he said. For example, artists here have given him advice on how to do beadwork, and Mills has also received tips on how to work with the handicapped.

All that said, McIntosh does have her limits on the animals. "I tried to put an elephant in her garage, but that was turned down," Mills said.

E4d) 'No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency' skits to bring Botswana to life

MIDDLETOWN - If people know Middfest's country, Botswana, they most likely know it through the best-selling book series and HBO series "The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency."

That's why it will be a key component of Middfest this week. It's not a play, or a dramatization of the stories, but an interactive presentation in which four actors will talk with Middfest attendees as if the visitors are coming to them with cases.

The presentation is coordinated by Middletown actress and teacher Christine Brunner, who has directed several plays over the years. The four actors play the lead detective, her assistant, a mechanic and an orphanage matron.

The interactive presentation goes "one step further" than a play would, so that "you can actually shake hands with the characters," Brunner said.

The presentation in the City Building on Sunday proved popular, Brunner said, because "these books have caught on like wildfire with groups that have started challenging each other to read all 10. They'll ask, 'What book are you on?' "

"We have a lot of exceptionally talented performing groups," said Virginia Ritan, executive director of Middfest. "The people who have come in are very nice to work with."

The actors are Burgess Byrd of Cincinnati, Edina Ndebele of Cincinnati, Alan Bomar Jones of Dayton and Marlene Johnson of Indianapolis. The presentation will run in the City Building from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, 1 to 9 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday.
Middfest runs those three days in and around Donham Plaza. Admission is $5, good for the entire weekend.

"Botswana's baskets to feature prominently in festival preview"

The African nation will be the featured country at this year's Middfest International event.

MIDDLETOWN - Fans of the "No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency" books will find Middfest's exhibit preview on Sunday, Sept. 26, especially rewarding.

The 11 books are set in the African nation of Botswana; Middfest's featured country this year. Middfest has held a reading challenge throughout the year to see who read the most books. The challenge participants will be recognized, and they will get to meet a colleague of author Alexander McCall Smith, said Middfest spokeswoman Christina Papakirk.

That colleague is Dr. Neil Parsons, a former University of Botswana history professor and film buff who will talk about movies and Botswana.

Visitors to the "Tea and Talk," as the preview is called, also will be invited to tour the various Middfest exhibits set up in the City Building this past week. Libby Birch, who has worked on many Middfest displays over the years, said baskets will figure prominently at Middfest.

"It's an industry and an art that are being presented because they're gorgeous. They're beautiful, exquisite works of art," Birch said, adding that a basket weaver is expected to present demonstrations Sunday, and at the festival next weekend.

Other pre-festival events coming up next week includes "A Taste of Botswana" at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, in the Campus & Community Centre at Miami University Middletown.

The festival will run Friday through Sunday, Oct. 1 through 3.

END NOTE - TAUTONA TIMES

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