



BOTSWANA EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
***CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME REMARKS AT THE 13TH CONFERENCE OF
THE SOUTHERN AFRICA ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL
ASSESSMENT***

DATE: 20 MAY, 2019

GABORONE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (GICC)



*GUEST OF HONOUR, ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR BASIC EDUCATION,
HONOURABLE THATO KWEREPE*

MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF GABORONE, KAGISO THUTLWE

*PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF BASIC EDUCATION, MRS
BRIDGET JOHN AND YOUR DEPUTIES*

PERMANENT SECRETARIES OF OTHER MINISTRIES HERE PRESENT

MEMBERS OF THE BOTSWANA EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON OF UMALUSI BOARD, PROF JOHN VOLMINCK

*CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL
ASSESSMENT, DR MAFU RAKOMETSI*

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE BOTSWANA EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

*CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF EXAMINATION BOARDS OF SOUTHERN
AFRICA*

*HEADS OF PARASTATAL ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENTS HERE PRESENT*

DISTINISHED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

MANAGEMENT OF THE BOTSWANA EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL



OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS AND SPONSORS OF THE CONFERENCE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE MEDIA

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

It gives me great pleasure and pride to stand before this august audience to welcome each and every one of you to the 13th Conference of Southern Africa Association for Educational Assessment in Gaborone Botswana. The Botswana Examinations Council is extremely delighted to be the host for this year's conference of the association. For me personally, this is the second major international research conference to be hosted by the BEC during my tenure as Chairperson of the Council. We have as the Council and indeed as a Ministry come to appreciate the critical role of research in carrying out our assessment mandate. We need to ensure that everything that we do and the decisions that we make are evidence based and not based on common sense.



Director of Ceremonies, the second basis for my delight arises out of the fact that as I cast my eyes across the breath of this conference hall, I only see old friends. I met and welcomed many of you seven years ago, at this same venue, at the 30th Conference of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA). Excellent presentations on curriculum and curriculum delivery and different aspects of educational assessment were made at the 2012 conference and as I welcome you today, it is almost like an opportunity to find out what we have implemented since. The conference left us with fascinating research findings and recommendations of how proper execution of educational assessment could lead to improved performance in our education systems. On behalf of our parent Ministry of Basic Education, members of the Council of the BEC and its Management, we look forward with significant excitement to the next two days of deliberations.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as a Council we were extremely delighted with the idea of hosting this conference. We watched as the theme of the conference took shape, and were delighted when finally the



Executive Committee of SAAEA approved the theme and sub-themes. Each and every member of the Council endorsed the proposal to host without any hesitation. We thank everyone who contributed to the conceptualisation of the conference and all of you who chose to present at SAAEA and not the many conferences taking place all over the world. Your participation through presentations and other dialogue will no doubt have a lasting positive impact on our education systems.

Director of Ceremonies, the 13th SAAEA Conference comes against the background of very exciting developments in the history of the BEC. The Council is undergoing preparatory work for a comprehensive reorganisation exercise that will result in an expanded mandate that will include the assessment and moderation of TVET. We are also pursuing certification against a number of international standards for purposes of continuous improvement. Last but not least, the BEC is making significant efforts to engender corporate governance in all its operations. We hope the conference will provide an opportunity to share our own



unique experience and most importantly experiences and practices from your respective countries.

Director of Ceremonies, my task today was to make welcome remarks and not to give a speech. There are those who are charged with such a responsibility. In concluding my remarks, please allow me on behalf of the Council and the SAAEA family express our profound gratitude to the Honourable Assistant Minister of Basic Education for graciously agreeing to officiate at this conference. Your presence and indeed of other dignitaries at this conference is a clear testimony that you consider it to be of significant relevance. To all the participants, it is my hope that you will find time outside the conference to experience a little bit of this country.

Director of Ceremonies, with those few remarks, let me again heartily welcome each and every one of you to Gaborone and to the 13th SAAEA Conference. In Setswana we say “*ntsa di bofilwe*”, meaning; ***be at peace and enjoy your stay.***

PULA!!!

