



**BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS**

**SPEECH BY**

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World Standards Day  
LAUNCHING OF SCHOOL UNIFORM STANDARDS  
12 October 2007

Theme: Standards and the Citizen - Contributing to Society

**DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES**

**BOBS MANAGING DIRECTOR, DR MEINTJIES**

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**

**MEMBERS OF THE PRESS**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DUMELANG BETSHO.**

IT IS MY PLEASURE AND PRIVILEGE TO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO THIS OCCASION IN COMMEMORATION AND CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD STANDARDS DAY WHOSE THEME IS “**STANDARDS AND THE CITIZEN, CONTRIBUTING TO SOCIETY**”.

BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME WHEN THE WORLD IS UNDERGOING THE MOST RAPID CHANGE THAT HAS BEEN SEEN IN HUMAN HISTORY. A TIME WHEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SUCH AS OURS, ARE FACED WITH CHALLENGES OF PROVIDING FOR ITS PEOPLE BASIC NEEDS FOR A DECENT EXISTENCE, AND

A TIME WHEN ECONOMIC GROWTH IS INTERTWINED WITH THE ABILITY TO COMPETE INTERNATIONALLY.

RECOGNISING THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE ALSO CHALLENGED WITH INCREASED EXPECTATION FROM THEIR NATIONALS FOR AN EVEN BETTER, MORE COMFORTABLE LIVING STANDARD, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT, WE, THROUGH ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS BOBS EQUIP OURSELVES TO MEET THE CHALLENGES.

THIS CAN BEST BE ATTAINED THROUGH ADAPTING AND ADOPTING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS TO IMPROVE ON OUR COMPETITIVENESS. WE WILL NEED TO EMBRACE REFORMS SUCH AS PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, AND IMPLEMENT QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS REQUIREMENTS IN RUNNING OUR ORGANISATIONS.

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT CONSISTENT WITH THE THEME “STANDARDS AND THE CITIZEN, CONTRIBUTING TO SOCIETY”, SPECIAL FOCUS IS WITH

THE LAUNCH OF THE TEXTILE STANDARDS, TARGETED FOR THE LOCAL MARKET THAT IS LARGELY COTTAGE IN NATURE AND IS RUN MOSTLY BY OUR WOMEN IN VILLAGES. CONTROL OF THIS INDUSTRY THROUGH STANDARDS IS IMPORTANT IN THAT THE INDUSTRY LARGELY CATERS FOR SCHOOL UNIFORMS WORN BY OUR CHILDREN, AND AS SUCH THERE IS A NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE QUALITY OF PRODUCTS THEY WEAR IS NOT ONLY UNIFORM BUT CONFORMS TO APPROVED STANDARDS.

UNDOUBTEDLY THE CLOTHING AND TEXTILE INDUSTRY IS INCREASINGLY BEING RECOGNISED AS ONE OF THE ENGINES OF GROWTH IN BOTSWANA.

WITHIN THIS SECTOR, HEAVY INVESTMENTS ARE INCURRED BY GOVERNMENT, PARASTATALS AND PRIVATE COMPANIES. IT IS IMPORTANT THEREFORE, TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS A DELIBERATE EFFORT MADE BY ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO IMPROVE ON THE

STANDARDS OF THE PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED LOCALLY, INITIALLY TO SATISFY LOCAL NEEDS, AND IN THE LONG TERM TO COMPETE INTERNATIONALLY.

WHILE THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRY HAS REGISTERED SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN THE RECENT PAST, THERE IS CONCERN THAT BOTSWANA CONTINUES TO IMPORT PRODUCTS AND SERVICES EXTERNALLY, THE QUALITY OF SOME OF WHICH LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED. TO THIS END THEREFORE, WE NEED TO WORK TOWARDS AN ENVIRONMENT THAT DEMANDS FOR A SPECIFIC QUALITY OF GOODS AND SERVICES WE CONSUME. WE NEED TO RECOGNISE THAT THE COST OF NOT COMPLYING TO SPECIFIC STANDARDS IS FAR GREATER THAN WE HAVE THIS FAR RECOGNISED, AS IN THE LONG TERM GOODS THAT DO NOT COMPLY HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF OUR PEOPLE AS WELL AS CONTRIBUTING NEGATIVELY TOWARDS THE ENVIRONMENT.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS' KEY OBJECTIVES ARE THAT IT UNDERTAKES TO PROTECT PUBLIC INTEREST AND CONSUMERS BY PROMOTING BETTER QUALITY OF PRODUCTS. FURTHERMORE, BOBS MANDATE CALLS FOR IT TO PROMOTE QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES AND ASSIST MANUFACTURERS IN ATTAINING ACCEPTABLE QUALITY PRODUCTS THROUGH EFFICIENT PRODUCTION, THE MAIN AIM BEING TO ENSURE COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS, BOTH IN QUALITY AND COST OF PRODUCTION. THIS, I UNDERSTAND IS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS' STANDARD FOR WHICH BOBS IS EQUIPPED TO TRAIN ON.

I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO URGE ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE THE EXISTENCE OF THE BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS AND RECOGNISE THAT THEY ARE AN ACCESSIBLE

RESOURCE MEANT TO ASSIST IN IMPROVING PERFORMANCE OF THE INDUSTRY.

BASED ON THE CURRENT TRENDS WHERE INFORMATION IS READILY AVAILABLE, IT IS EASY TO RECOGNISE THAT BOTSWANA STANDARDS CAN PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS FOR THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING BUSINESSES. THE NATIONAL STANDARDS DEVELOPED BY BOBS PROVIDE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO MANY CHALLENGES FACED BY TEXTILE AND CLOTHING BUSINESS IN TODAY'S MARKETS WHICH DEMAND THAT COUNTRIES OPEN UP THEIR BORDERS AND DO NOT CREATE BARRIERS TO TRADE THROUGH LAWS THAT INHIBIT FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS BETWEEN COUNTRIES. THE TOOL TO USE IS A REQUIREMENT OF STANDARDS THAT ALL SUPPLIERS OF GOODS AND SERVICES CAN SUBSCRIBE TO.

DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES, TODAY MARKS THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF TEN SCHOOL CLOTHING STANDARDS, WHICH WERE DEVELOPED BY THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.

I AM INFORMED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE STANDARDS WAS INITIATED BY VARIOUS SMALL TO MEDIUM CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS, HAVING RECOGNISED THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT WORKING TO A STANDARD OPENS UP THE MARKETS AND THEREFORE THE POTENTIAL FOR AN INCREASED MARKET BASE. IT ALSO SERVES AS A BASE FOR ADDRESSING THE INFLUX OF SUB STANDARDS' MATERIALS ENTERING THE COUNTRY AS THE ORGANISATIONS TASKED WITH REGULATING IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES CAN USE THE STANDARDS TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE CONSUMER.

TODAY, WE LAUNCH THE SCHOOL CLOTHING STANDARDS THAT ARE DIVIDED INTO TEN PARTS. LET THIS BE THE BEGINNING OF A LONG JOURNEY OF ENSURING THAT PEOPLE WEAR AND DEMAND THOSE GARMENTS THAT COMPLY WITH A SPECIFIC STANDARD.

AS BOTSWANA JOINS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND CELEBRATES THE WORLD STANDARDS DAY, I CHALLENGE YOU ALL; ESPECIALLY YOU THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING BUSINESSES, SMALL, MEDIUM AND LARGE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY BOBS IN THE AREA OF STANDARDIZATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE SERVICES.

BAGAETSHO, LET AS WAKE UP TO THE REALITY UPON US AND ADDRESS THE INTERNAL MARKETS BY COMPLYING WITH THEIR REQUIREMENTS, THIS IS

ONLY ATTAINABLE THROUGH THE COMPLIANCE TO  
STANDARDS. LE KA MOSO.

**DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES**

**MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BOBS**

**MEMBERS OF PRESS**

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

**BAGAETSHO**

IT IS NOW MY PLEASURE AND HONOUR TO DECLARE  
THE TEN STANDARDS ON SCHOOL CLOTHING  
OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED.

THANK YOU,

**A PULA E LO NELE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

THE STANDARDS WE ARE LAUNCHING TODAY ARE:

- SCHOOL CLOTHING PART 1: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, WHICH SPECIFIES THE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MATERIALS, WORKMANSHIP, PACKING, CARE-LABELLING, MARKING AND INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CLOTHING.
- SCHOOL CLOTHING PART 2: BLAZERS, WHICH COVERS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MATERIAL FOR, AND THE SIZES AND MAKE OF SCHOOL BLAZERS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.
- SCHOOL CLOTHING PART 3: TROUSERS AND SHORTS, WHICH SPECIFY THE MATERIALS, CUT, MAKE AND TRIM OF BOYS' TROUSERS AND SHORTS.
- SCHOOL CLOTHING PART 4: SHIRTS, WHICH SPECIFIES THE MATERIALS, CUT, MAKE AND TRIM OF SHIRTS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

- SCHOOL CLOTHING PART 5: DRESSES, TUNICS AND GYM DRESSES WHICH, SPECIFIES THE MATERIALS, CUT, MAKE AND TRIM OF GIRLS, DRESSES, TUNICS AND GYM DRESSES.
- SCHOOL CLOTHING PART 6: GIRLS' SLACKS AND SKIRTS WHICH, SPECIFIES THE MATERIALS, CUT, MAKE AND TRIM OF GIRLS' SLACKS AND SKIRTS
- SCHOOL CLOTHING PART 7: JERSEYS AND CARDIGANS, WHICH, COVERS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MATERIALS, SIZE AND MAKE OF SCHOOL JERSEYS AND CARDIGANS.
- SCHOOL CLOTHING PART 8: TRACKSUITS, WHICH, COVERS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MATERIALS, SIZE AND MAKE OF TRACKSUITS.
- SCHOOL CLOTHING PART 9: ATHLETIC WEAR, WHICH COVERS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MATERIALS, SIZE AND MAKE OF ATHLETIC WEAR.

- SCHOOL CLOTHING PART 10: KNEE-HIGH STOCKINGS AND ANKLE SOCKS WHICH COVERS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TWO TYPES OF KNEE-HIGH STOCKINGS AND TWO TYPES OF ANKLE SOCKS FOR SCHOOL WEAR.