



SPEECH BY

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AT THE
LAUNCH OF THE

BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS
WEBSITE

www.bobstandards.bw

THURSDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2005

BOBS HEAD OFFICE

Director of ceremonies

Members of Diplomatic Corp

Permanent Secretaries

Heads of Parastatals

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed an honour and privilege to have been invited to perform the official launching of the Botswana Bureau of Standards' website. As you are aware, the mandate of the Botswana Bureau of Standards is to establish national standards and facilitate and/or enforce their implementation. Botswana Bureau of Standards does this to enhance trade, contribute to economic development and for protection of consumers. The use of information technology therefore, is of paramount importance for ensuring information is readily available to Botswana Bureau of Standards stakeholders and other parties interested in Botswana standards.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am informed that in March 2003, Botswana Bureau of Standards held a Strategic Workshop in

Kasane. At that workshop a Strategic Plan was developed to take BOBS forward and improve on its services.

The launch of the Botswana Bureau of Standards website today, whose design and development was seen as top priority, is a direct outcome of the recommendations of that workshop. The development of the website started in November 2004 with the assistance of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) through the Mediterranean 2000 Project. The International Organization for Standardization donated hardware and software to Botswana Bureau of Standards towards the website development. In addition, the International Organization for Standardization brought two of their experts on Documentation and Information Technology to train Botswana Bureau of Standards staff on implementing the website according to their recommendation for websites of National Standards Bodies.

The design and development of the site was completed September this year. You can therefore appreciate that this is a new site that will need your participation and feedback to ensure that it serves and informs you better as our customer.

Director of Ceremonies, the Botswana Bureau of Standards website is the Botswana's window to the global standardization community. It can be accessed directly through its Uniform Resource Locator (U.R.L.), www.bobstandards.bw.

The website has links to sites of BOBS parent ministry, which is the Ministry of Trade and Industry, other standardization bodies such as International Organization for Standardization, and various local and international partners.

The database for Botswana Standards is linked directly to the website, and this allows for immediate and accurate updates of information relating to Botswana Standards. Also users of the site can search the database directly, and quickly obtain information on the standard(s) such as price and the scope of the standard(s).

A lot of the Bureau's processes are being improved as a result of this site. For example, application forms for training are offered on-line, which should cut costs at the same time ensuring information is readily available to its customers at the time they need it.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I at this stage take this opportunity to congratulate the Botswana Bureau of Standards for this new

achievement. I would also wish to express my gratitude to all those who have participated on this project both from within and outside BOBS, providing feedback which has been used to improve the site, thereby making it the success it is today.

In conclusion, let me encourage you all, to visit the site, read through it and use the information there-in to enhance trade, contribute to the economic development and for protection of consumers in Botswana. The beauty of the Internet is that the results can be immediate; all what is needed is your support through site-visits and most importantly, your feedback.

It is now my singular honour and pleasure to declare the Botswana Bureau of Standards website officially launched.

PULA! PULA! PULA!