



OVERVIEW OF THE CEDA/DBSA UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

BY

CEDA's CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MR THABO P. THAMANE

AT THE

AWARD CEREMONY OF THE CEDA/DBSA UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

DATE

23 JANUARY 2020

GABORONE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

GABORONE, BOTSWANA

Director of Ceremonies,

His Excellency, the Acting President of the Republic of Botswana, Mr.

Slumber Tsogwane,

The Acting Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Honourable Karabo

S. Gare.

Cabinet Ministers;

Honourable Members of Parliament;

Your Worship the Mayor of Gaborone City, Father Maphongo;

All Permanent Secretaries;

CEDA Chairman, Dr Alfred Tsheboeng and members of the Board of
Directors;

Chief Executive Officer of the Development Bank of Southern Africa, Mr.

Patrick Dlamini,

CEDA Senior Management;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Ke le dumedisa ka Pula!!!!!!

1. It is an honour to be standing before you today as we are about to award the 3rd winner of the CEDA/DBSA University Challenge. The support that this competition continues to receive from the leadership of this country is humbling to say the least.
2. CEDA through this Challenge intends to encourage active participation of the youth in growing the economy. The Agency has therefore during this circle of the competition, aligned the theme of the competition to one of its strategic initiatives of growing the manufacturing sector of the country. Ladies and gentlemen, as you recall the key theme of the Challenge is for young people to come up with innovative solutions to issues of unemployment in the country. The manufacturing sector has the largest potential for employment creation with SMMEs in the lead hence this alignment.
3. I am happy to report that the contestants took heed of our message resulting in a majority of them submitting applications based on interventions aimed at the manufacturing sector. From the top 10 submissions 3 solutions are in the sector.
4. Ladies and gentlemen, our aim for the challenge going forward is to evolve it making it dynamic, ensuring that it aligns to the national priorities. We are going to engage industry experts to review the challenge in order to guide the application process and improve the quality of the submissions and practicality of the ideas in order to ensure that they are implementation ready.

5. Your Excellency, I am happy to report that through CEDA's support and guidance the University Challenge has been replicated in South Africa by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), who awarded their first winner in December 2019. This is an indication that this is not just a competition but an initiative with the potential of developing African economies and it is our hope that it be replicated throughout Africa.

6. Ladies and gentlemen, the winner will be enrolled in Entrepreneurship Development Training to provide them with the ability to recognize commercial opportunities, provide them with skills to enable them to better organize and manage their businesses. This will not be a class room set up type of programme, it will be simulated to provide a feel of the real life business environment. The contestants will further be linked with industry experts who will provide mentorship as well as valuable business linkages. Furthermore, they will be taken through Financial Literacy Training for them to have a basic understanding of banking, savings, credit and debt management. This comes from the understanding that these are young people who probably have not had access to large sums of money before, we therefore want to prepare them for what lies ahead.

7. In addition to the cash prize and the already mentioned interventions, the winner and last year's winner will be enrolled in the Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamp (GEB) to be held in Bangkok, Thailand from the 13th to 16th April 2020. The primary aim of GEB is to provide participants an overwhelming lifetime experience to develop the necessary entrepreneurial skills to start their own venture. GEB is the

platform to interact with mentors, successful entrepreneurs who are willing to hear what budding entrepreneurs are thinking of and guide them on the right path to making a successful startup.

8. The learnings from this bootcamp would provide a platform for implementation of our young people's ideas. This type of exposure will be form part of the prize package over the years as we bring more partners onboard. We are of the view that the learnings from such interactions would not only benefit the contestants but it will trickle down to other entrepreneurs in the country.
9. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your courteous attention and continued support. To the contestants all the best and go make our country proud.

Pula!