



VOTE OF THANKS

BY

CEDA BOARD CHAIRMAN,

DR. ALFRED TSHEBOENG

PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY OF THE CEDA/DBSA

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020

GICC

Director of Ceremonies;

The Acting President of the Republic of Botswana, His Honour Mr.

Slumber Tsogwane

Cabinet Ministers;

Honourable Members of Parliament;

His Worship the Mayor of the Gaborone City Father Maphongo

Chairman of Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Kgosi Puso Gaborone;

Acting District Commissioner, Ms Mpho Bungile;

Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Investment Trade and Industry

Mrs Keganele Malikongwa

All Permanent Secretaries;

Representatives of the Development Bank of Southern Africa,

Fellow members of the CEDA Board of Directors;

CEO, CEDA Mr Thabo Thamane;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Evening,

1. First, let me thank you all for honouring our invitation to this prestigious event as we officially award the winner of our third edition of the CEDA/DBSA University Challenge. I also extend, mine and CEDA's gratitude to His Honour the Acting President, Mr Slumber Tsogwane for his presence here tonight. From the very beginning, the Office of the Vice President has supported us in getting the Challenge to fruition, and I thank you!
2. Your attendance shows your commitment, and the significance of the University Challenge in unearthing new and vibrant ideas from the youth. It is our conviction that these ideas will lead to development of product that will become a solution to some of the challenges faced by Botswana.
3. Director of Ceremonies, the Challenge has been a partnership between CEDA and DBSA, and at the end of 2019, DBSA, through our support and guidance managed to launch their own Challenge. This replication is itself a demonstration of the Challenge as a useful tool for unearthing talent and innovation from the youth.

4. The CEDA Team tasked with the University Challenge has worked tirelessly to deliver on the objectives of the challenge to ensure that it addresses all the key issues Botswana face. As previously stated, the objectives of the challenge are to:

- Identify practical solutions addressing Botswana Challenges
- To inspire Botswana youth and students to deliver practical and market oriented solutions to Botswana's challenges and support them through the University Challenge

5. Director of Ceremonies through this Challenge, CEDA continues to do its bit to develop and inculcate the spirit of entrepreneurship in young Botswana. Beyond the main prize of up to P350 000, CEDA is committed to providing support and guidance to the Top 10 Finalists through its partnership with LEA on Advisory Services.

6. Job creation and entrepreneurship remain critical in what CEDA does on a daily basis. Our mandate is to:

- Foster citizen entrepreneurship and empowerment through encouragement of local entrepreneurial culture through funding.

- Foster youth enterprises in business through effective pursuit of opportunities in all sectors of the economy.

With the aforementioned mandate, the University Challenge is perfectly aligned in assisting the youth and driving their competitive nature.

7. We therefore assure you Your Honour the Vice President, of our commitment to grow the Challenge, and get many other players on board in supporting our young people.
8. The Team will be embarking on a review exercise to prepare for the launch of the 2020/21 CEDA DBSA Challenge, which will be our fourth Edition. The coming instalment will undergo significant changes, as the focus grows strong on implementable proposals, and active participation by other Government entities. We are excited about the coming chapter and look forward to your support.
9. On behalf of the Board of Directors of CEDA, I also wish to thank the Judges who have walked this journey with us for the past three years and continue to provide not only a valuable service in identifying the winner, but also providing critical feedback to make the Challenge more impactful.

10. Director of Ceremonies my task today was to give the Vote of Thanks and by this, I would like to thank DBSA and CEDA for coming together to change a young person's life. Congratulations to all of you who entered and see you all next year!

11. Bagaetsho, Thank you.