

## IDM Exposes Learners To Entrepreneurship, Career Guidance, Health & Wellness

The Institute of Development Management (IDM) Assistant Director-Academic Services, Matthias Chida says IDM provides an exclusive opportunity and platform between prospective employers and employees. Speaking at the recent Open Day event hosted by IDM Botswana campus in Gaborone, Mr Chida said it is important for students to explore different career opportunities to enable them make informed career decisions.

Several entities heeded the call to engage learners on entrepreneurship, career guidance, health & wellness including successful individuals who provided them with motivation.

“It is for this reason that we have invited many potential employers from different fields. Through an understanding of the importance of career planning, people who have been in the work field for long can help students assess their talents, develop relevant skills and expand their career options. Companies, organizations and individuals here present, are the link between education and the realities of work,” he revealed.

He further reminded learners that entering work-life at the end of their studies is a two way process that provides them the opportunity to market themselves and for employers to equally make efforts to attract the cut above the rest.

Mr Chida challenged learners to play their part in helping Botswana to become a knowledge-based country in an effort to diversify the economy. “Our country relies more on minerals, and we need to start asking ourselves how we are going to survive once minerals run out. We often forget that the answer lies in all of us, including learners. You can diversify the economy with knowledge and skills attained at higher education”.

The Assistant Director-Academic Services went on to reveal IDM’s determination and zeal to build the best trained students who can compete in the international stage.

“For this, it is imperative that we do our utmost best to prepare our students. We believe each student should have the opportunity to develop their talent and grasp whatever life has to offer. IDM has shown great initiative in ensuring that its students are groomed in-depth in the entrepreneurial space. This is evidenced by the level of engagement we create between our students and the business world. We also offer training on enterprising within our course offering.”

### Career guidance

Mr Chida said choosing a career is not a one-size-fits-all proposition. He quoted former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela who once said: “Education is the most powerful weapon one can use to change the world.”

### Entrepreneurship

He said it is through education that learners can become successful entrepreneurs. In order to reach that goal, IDM invited successful young entrepreneurs to share how they made it to the top. IDM, with its great intentions to develop learners into entrepreneurs has developed

initiatives and strategies to ignite that interest such as incubation hubs, field trips, networking events.

#### Health & Wellness

Mr Chida cautioned that wellness is more than being free of illness; it is a dynamic process of change and growth, "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease."

He said that optimum health and wellness can have a positive impact on one's academic success. "By establishing healthy habits in nutrition, exercise, and other areas of wellness, one can set themselves up to be more successful in making informed career decisions. Research has established that regular exercise and a healthy diet lead to higher levels of productivity, happiness, motivation, and, not surprisingly, one's ability to live longer.

**The Open Day event aimed at advancing learners' potential and promoting the requisite skills for employment opportunities which are important aspects of student development and continuous improvement of quality education standards as supported by the Botswana Qualification Authority.**