

CD's NEWSFLASH

January - March 2021 Issue



Dear students,

Even though I have met most of you informally since we reopened from December break, let me officially welcome you and wish you all compliments of the new season. 2020 was a challenging year as evidenced by interruptions of many lock downs due to the Covid19 pandemic. 2021 is even more challenging given the new Covid19 variant which is claiming the lives of many citizens of the world, young and old. When this pandemic started, little did we imagine the impact it would have on us at individual, family and even community level. Above all, the virus is presenting itself in many forms and shapes, dashing our hopes that we will ever get back to normalcy again. This calls for more vigilance to stay safe and avoid being infected.

Despite the gloomy picture, we still need to remain optimistic that we will find an eternal solution, while at the same time we adhere to the set health protocols.

MOMENT OF SILENCE



At this point, I wish to request you to pause for a moment of silence to remember our departed colleague, a loving father, a dear friend and brother, IDM Librarian at our Francistown Campus, Mr Nehemia Kaaya who passed on the 26.02.2021! May his soul rest in eternal peace!



In January we sadly lost another colleague, Mr Christopher Muhenyeri who was a Senior Consultant under our CIPS programme in Francistown. Chris was a devoted and committed individual who selflessly contributed to the growth of the CIPS portfolio. We pray that his family receives healing from the Lord!

Let us also remember all those who have succumbed to the virus here in Botswana and across the world, and pray for the Lord's mercies!

BUSINESS UPDATES

I find joy in sharing with you updates on the activities that we do in our campuses to make your stay at IDM memorable. It is our aim to ensure that while you focus on working hard to achieve best results in your studies, we in turn provide you with support to succeed. I therefore wish to appraise you of the following:



ELECTION OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF STUDENT COUNCIL:

Towards the end of last year, you elected a new SRC into office. I have had the opportunity to meet and speak with them. I reminded them of their role to represent your interests to facilitate your smooth and seamless stay with us.

I told them that their position as SRC comes with a high level of responsibility and the need to account. Similarly, I want to challenge you as the student body to support them as they discharge the duties you have assigned them, while on the other hand you remain focused on why you are here.

Your primary objective is to study, acquire that certificate and go and make your contribution towards nation building. To borrow the words of one of our elders, The Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon Phandu Skelemani said, 'keep your eyes on the ball and never lose focus'. I urge you to do exactly that!





SRC TRAINING: As an important stakeholder, SRC requires Management support to effectively deliver its mandate. They equally require realistic and achievable targets if you are to hold them accountable. As Management, we continuously engage them by training and equipping them with leadership skills to contribute towards the fulfillment of the IDM strategy. In November last year, we arranged Leadership Training for them, while in February this year they were trained on Effective Communication & Stakeholder Management in an effort to facilitate a smooth and cordial working relationship. More interventions are planned for them during the course of the year.



STUDENTS' GRIEVANCES: We take students' feedback seriously, as such we have a platform through the Learner Support office called Students Staff Consultative (SSC) forum which convenes monthly to engage on issues pertaining to Academic, Security and Facilities, Welfare and other pertinent issues. Campus Management Team also holds routine meetings to deliberate on the business strategy including matters relating to students welfare. It is through these platforms that you may raise your issues through SRC so that your voice gets heard.



ACADEMIC SERVICES: We are challenged to ensure continuous teaching and learning despite the situation of Covid19. Our Technology teams have provided us with platforms meant to necessitate this. The Moodle platform offers you a one-stop-shop to do your end to end academic requirements with your lecturers. We will continue to monitor its performance, we urge you to also give us feedback on where you think we need to improve. I am aware of more engagements with internet service providers, the sponsor and other key stakeholders to find more and better ways of supporting our e-learning program. You will be provided with updates once resolutions are made.



ACCOMMODATION SERVICES: After a long battle to find a lasting solution to the accommodation problem we had in Gaborone, I am happy to inform you that we have finally settled all deserving students at West Campus. This development will help us to ensure we are there and offer needed services 24/7. We have also completed construction of the Matron's house to provide closer care and general oversight.



CALL FOR RESTAURANT NAME IDEAS

We are happy to inform you that we are moving our Culinary Arts Centre from Block 8 to Main Campus (formerly Bonatla Restaurant)! This relocation comes at a time when we focus more on enhancing our Culinary Arts product offering to better serve our customers, particularly against the backdrop of Covid19. Our strategy is to establish a Centre that will provide easy access to practical training for our students, at the same time offering cafeteria services to our community (staff, students and stakeholders). To facilitate its opening, we are calling for innovative ideas of a new name that will resonate with the values and ethos of IDM as a strong brand that has been part of the development journey of Botswana.

We are looking for a name:

- That is unique, simple & memorable
- That is in the vernacular (Setswana) & eye-catching
- That is descriptive and has a concept

Through this initiative we endeavor to build a lifetime of hopes and wishes to achieve our dream to be the preferred service provider in our market and beyond!

The competition is open to all IDM Staff and Students who wish to compete. The winning name gets IDM hamper and 3 months lunch voucher (from the new restaurant).

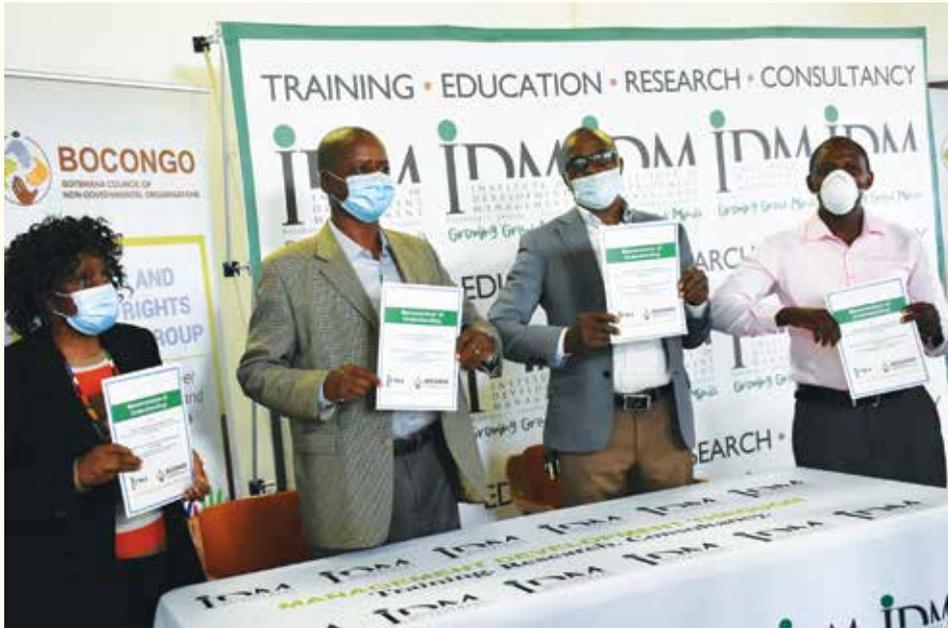
Send the name by email ONLY to: culinaryarts@idmbts.ac.bw
(Telephone, hand deliver or fax not accepted)

Closing date: Friday 22nd January 2021 @16h30hrs.



NEW CAFETERIA: We have moved our Culinary Arts Centre from Block 8 to Main Campus (formerly Bonatla Restaurant). This relocation comes at a time when we focus more on enhancing our Culinary Arts product offering to better serve our customers, particularly against the backdrop of Covid19. Our strategy is to establish a Centre that will provide easy access to practical training for our students, at the same time offering cafeteria services to our community (staff, students and stakeholders).

STRATEGY UPDATE

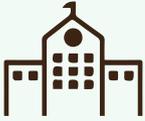


We also renewed our vows with the Department of Community Development in the Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development to reaffirm our commitment in the local government space. Recently we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Botswana Association of Local Authorities to capacitate Councilors and tribal authorities with required skills for effective service delivery. Last week we signed an agreement with Botswana Council of NGOs (BOCONGO) to provide them with in-service training to equip them with skills to effectively discharge their mandate of conscientizing and stimulating public interest towards compliance with international standards of good governance.

We look forward to forge more new and meaningful alliances to consolidate our position as a relevant and responsive institution that supports the national agenda.



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS: These form a critical component of our existence. Partnerships provide us with an opportunity to thrive during this trying time because we certainly cannot go it alone, we need other people to survive. Towards the end of last year we established and formalized a relationship with Choppies to support SMMEs through training, especially during the time of Covid19. The partnership also provides our Culinary Arts programme by offering practicum opportunities for our students.



SEROWE CAMPUS: Following the much-awaited nod we received from Botswana Qualification Authority to operate in Serowe, we have rolled up our sleeves to recruit learners in the Central District to enroll with IDM into our Campus at I.H.S. I am confident that we will soon begin to see our Block Release classes and short courses running there.

As the true brand ambassadors, I believe you will recommend IDM to potential students in that region.

IDM MO SJAPI

OFFERING BLOCK RELEASE PROGRAMMES IN THE AREAS OF:

- Project Management
- Educational Management
- Early Childhood Studies
- Archives and Records Management
- Public Health

APPLY TODAY!
GABORONE | TEL: 3612100 | FAX: 3913296
FRANCISTOWN | TEL: 2410300 | FAX: 2410315

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TECHNOLOGY: Technology remains the backbone of businesses in this digital era. It is even more important during this time of Covid19 where physical contact is limited. For IDM it is even critical if we are to help Government attain a knowledge-based economy. Like all institutions of higher learning, we are facilitating e-learning to support delivery of our programs. We continue to improve our Moodle platform to facilitate a fully-fledged virtual classroom and maintain your safety and that of your lecturers.

Our Moodle platform has so far been integrated with critical services such as the Library for e-books; Finance for payments as well as TurnItIn for assignment. I encourage you to make good use of these services to make your learning more exciting!



LOOKING AHEAD!

A mammoth task lies ahead of us as we begin the year. Covid19 dictates to us to do things differently while at the same time we remain operational and stay afloat.

Our strategy provides the yardstick to measure our performance and success as an institution, and to that effect, we are conducting a strategy review exercise. The review team will be contacting you through several mediums of engagement to hear your experiences as well as suggestions to enable us to move forward.





BLOCK 3 & FRANCISTOWN CAMPUS: Over the years IDM has experienced exponential growth due to increasing demand for our products and services, as such we find ourselves challenged by inadequate infrastructure. We are also facing more pressure as a result of Covid19 to provide a learning environment that meets the health requirements. As a result of these developments, we are engaging key stakeholders to facilitate approvals to build our plots in Block 3 in Gaborone and Gerald Estate in Francistown as soon as funds permit. We will provide you with updates on the progress.

Last but not least, Covid19 is alive, it is already affecting us individually, as families and communities. Remember to stay safe and adhere to the Health protocols.

Thank you!

Dr Onalenna Seitio - Kgokgwe, IDM Country Director