



# Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2010

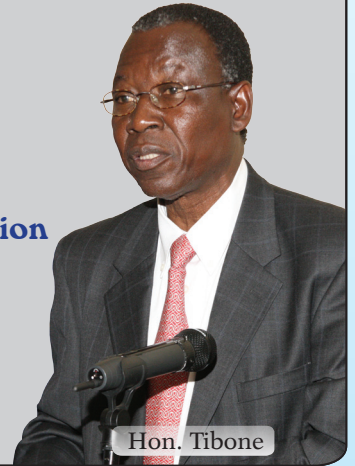
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Ms Ezekwesili

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Hon. Tibone



**BIDPA Executive Director, Dr Seleka,  
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## Editor's Note

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It is evident that for the Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis 2010 was yet another eventful year. A number of milestones were achieved this year and this includes the completion and adoption of the institute's Strategic Plan. The BIDPA Strategic Plan seeks to position the institute as the center of excellence for policy research, analysis, advice and capacity building. The strategy envisions BIDPA as a globally competitive research institute.

Another highlight of the year was the appointment of the new Executive Director for the institute. This makes 2010 a year of transition, a year of change. As we welcome the new Executive Director on board, and of course express our gratitude to his predecessor for his unwavering commitment to the success of the institute, one believes that this time of change will further revitalize the institute's resolve to fulfill its mandate. The institute's strategic plan adopted recently provides the roadmap for the fulfillment of this mandate.

As always, BIDPA research output is still outstanding as evidenced by the number of completed and ongoing research undertakings. Thus BIDPA remains an important player in the national policy discourse, and this is particularly important given the prevailing economic conditions which depict a sustained, but rather fragile global economic recovery. There is no doubt that more proactive policies are needed as countries like Botswana battle to contain budget deficits, and this is a challenge to "think tank" and "policy analysis" institutes like BIDPA.

In this issue we highlight a number of activities undertaken by the institute and these include research projects, publications, public forums and capacity building activities.

Finally, we take this opportunity to thank our clients, stakeholders and the general public for their support. May 2011 be a year of bliss and success to all of us!

### Newsletter Editorial Team:

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## BIDPA welcomes New Executive Director

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The BIDPA Board of Trustees has appointed Dr. Tebogo B. Seleka as the new BIDPA Executive Director with effect from September 1, 2010. Dr. Seleka holds a PhD degree in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University (USA), with specializations in public policy, applied economics and production economics. He also holds MSc and BSc degrees in Agricultural Economics, both from the Oklahoma State University (USA), where he majored in International Trade Policy. Previously, Dr Seleka worked for BIDPA as a Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Incomes, Welfare and Poverty Unit, and for the Botswana College of Agriculture as Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Head of



*Dr. Seleka*

*At his inaugural meeting with staff, Dr Seleka shared his vision and roadmap for the institute and implored staff to uphold team work and innovativeness in order to ensure that BIDPA mandate is achieved. He further underscored the fact that a dynamic mindset is required if the institute is to realise its strategic objectives.*

the Department of Agricultural Economics, Education and Extension.

Dr Seleka brings to BIDPA a wealth of research experience covering agricultural policy, poverty and social protection. He is well published in these areas and has done consultancy work for the Botswana Government (Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Local Government), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, United Kingdom's Department for International Development, and African Development Bank. His research has had an impact on public policy and development policy dialogue in Botswana.

We congratulate Dr. Seleka on his appointment and wish him well in his new assignment!



*World Bank Vice president for Africa Region, Ms Obiageli Ezekwesili addressing the audience at the dialogue*

## **BIDPA and World Bank co-host dialogue on ICT and development**

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In partnership with the Botswana Institute of Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA), the World Bank hosted a “development dialogue” on Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D). Mark William, Senior Economist with the World Bank, presented on “Mobilising Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for African Development: Progress, Challenges and Prospects”. The presented report showed that two-thirds of Africa’s population now lives in the range of a GSM signal, and that the sector has attracted significant investment from the private sector. Evidently, mobile networks have the universal form of access to ICT. Yet, despite these successes, challenges remain.

In order to stimulate growth, the Southern Africa region, including Botswana, urgently needs broadband growth that is low-cost, high-capacity, with in-built redundancy. At national levels multiple backbone networks combining wired and wireless are needed along with policies

that promote innovation and competition. According to the report, competition is the key driver of falls in international bandwidth prices. Although mobile prices in Africa are still high by global standards, competition continues to drive them down.

The dialogue was an open forum meant to advance debate and inform policymakers and other stakeholders about Africa-wide trends in ICT4D, showcasing global and African success stories about how ICT4D is being used to improve delivery of public services, promote transparency and accountability. The dialogue attracted players and stakeholders from the public sector, private sector, parastatals as well as academic and research institutions.

## **Open Budget Index – Botswana launch**

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The Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) recently held a seminar to launch the Open Budget Index 2010 for Botswana at the Phakalane Golf Resort in Gaborone. The report was launched by Dr Gape Kaboyakgosi, a Research Fellow

at BIDPA, who has also served as the country researcher for the Open Budget Survey which resulted in this report.

The Open Budget Survey is sponsored by the International Budget Partnership, and it focuses on the availability of eight key budget documents in each country covered as well as the comprehensiveness of data contained in these documents. Another important parameter that is examined by the survey is the opportunities available to the public to participate in the national budget making decisions and processes. In the 2010 Open Budget Index Botswana managed a score of 51 out of 100, which is among the higher scores in Sub-Saharan Africa but trails South Africa's score of 92. Botswana's score shows that government provides only some of the information to the public on the central government budget and financial activities. The worrisome trend is that Botswana's score has been on the decline since 2006 (i.e. 65% in 2006, 62% in 2008 and 51% in 2010).



*Dr Gape Kaboyakgosi*

According to Dr Kaboyakgosi it is high time the Botswana government started producing the Citizen's Budget in the interest of transparency

making processes. This is a non-technical, simplified summary of the government's budget intended to enable the general public to understand government's plans.

The government would also do well to increase the comprehensiveness of the Executive Budget Proposal. The government should also make public all the key budget documents it currently produces for internal use only, and these include: Pre-Budget Statement; In-Year reports and Mid-Year Reviews.

## FOPRISA Winds Up

BIDPA hosted the Formative Process Research on Integration in Southern Africa (FOPRISA) project from May 2005 to July 2010, and Professor Jonathan M. Kaunda was the project Coordinator during the period. FOPRISA was a policy research and capacity building programme, whose objective was to provide inputs that could assist the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to advance regional co-operation and integration. It was created to provide: research, analysis, and advice on democratic development; politics, defence and security cooperation; regional and international trade; economic harmonisation, finance and investment; and to monitor the member states' integration relationships, implementation of protocols and cooperation with the ICPs. The programme was funded by a generous grant from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### On-demand policy studies

FOPRISA assisted the SADC Secretariat by producing 13 specially commissioned (on-demand) studies. Of these, four had been commissioned as inputs into SADC Summit meetings:

1. Report on the Economic Situation of Zimbabwe and Recommendations to SADC Executive Secretary (2007).



*Prof. Jonathan M. Kaunda – FOPRISA Coordinator*

4. Infrastructure support for poverty eradication.
5. Examining the role of education in improving skills, technologies and innovation needed by the region to meet the Millennium Development Goals.
6. The SADC region poverty profile.
7. Gender and development for poverty reduction.
8. Mobilising development aid for Africa.
9. Trade liberalisation and poverty reduction in SADC.

## **Publications**

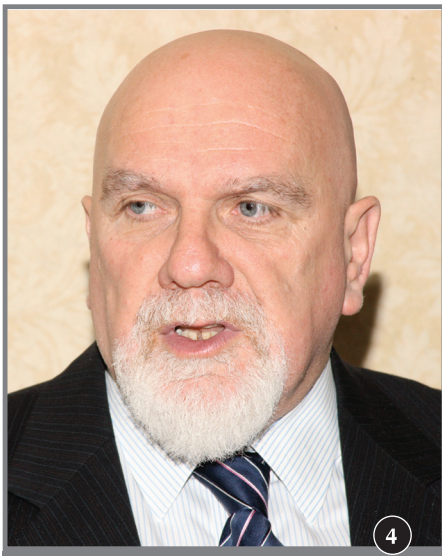
FOPRISA also conducted thematic research, which covered: poverty alleviation; social and economic development; developmental democracy; macroeconomic convergence; finance and investment; politics, diplomacy, peace and security cooperation; and monitoring of SADC-international cooperating partner relationships. The thematic research outputs were presented and discussed at the Annual Conferences prior to editing and publication. The publications were:

2. SADC Annual Economic Review 2007.
3. Issues for Consideration and Decision by the Extraordinary Summit of 2006.
4. The Status of Regional Integration in SADC (2006).

The other nine were background documents for the SADC International Consultative Conference on Poverty and Development (ICCPD) that was held in Mauritius in April 2008:

1. An assessment of poverty alleviation strategies in the SADC region.
2. Impact of climatic change on the poverty situation in the SADC region.
3. Strengthening the role of agriculture in poverty alleviation.

1. Proceedings of the 2009 FOPRISA Annual Conference, edited by Charles Harvey (Report 8), (July, 2010).
2. Furthering Southern African Integration: Proceedings of the 2008 FOPRISA Annual Conference, edited by Jonathan Mayuyuka Kaunda and Farai Zizhou (Report 7) (November 2009)
3. Towards Political and Economic Integration in Southern Africa: Proceedings of the 2007 FOPRISA Annual Conference (Report 6), edited by Gavin Cawthra and Jonathan Mayuyuka Kaunda (March 2009).



- ① Dr. G. Tabengwa (BIDPA) – Directing proceedings at the SACU centenary commemoration
- ② Ms Tswelopele Moremi – SACU Executive Secretary giving the keynote address at the the SACU centenary commemoration
- ③ Dr. N. H. Fidzani (BIDPA) - Welcome remarks at the SACU centenary commemoration
- ④ Prof. R. Grynberg (BIDPA) – Presenting a paper at the SACU centenary commemoration
- ⑤ Comments and question time at the Open Budget Index launch hosted by BIDPA
- ⑥ Dr. T. Nyamadzabo (MFDP) making comments at the SACU centenary commemoration
- ⑦ (R-L): Dr T. Seleka, Dr G. Kaboyakgosi and Mr D. Mmopelwa - BIDPA team at OBI launch
- ⑧ Part of the audience at the ICT4D seminar co-hosted by BIDPA and the World Bank





## BIDPA hosts 'SACU at 100 Years' Commemoration



*Honourable Charles Tibone – Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning speaking at the event*

On the 29th June 2010, the Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) hosted an occasion to mark the commemoration of the Southern Africa Customs Union's (SACU) hundred years as one of the key Africa trading blocs. The occasion, which was held at the Gaborone Sun Hotel, was graced by the Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Honourable Charles Tibone, SACU Executive Secretary Ms Tswelopele Moremi, and Secretary of Economic and Financial Policy in the Ministry of Finance Dr Taufila Nyamadzabo among others. The event was supported by the European Union, and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, and

its aim was to create a platform to showcase SACU as an important trading arrangement to relevant stakeholders in Botswana and to share information on the evolution of the customs union.

Membership of the Southern Africa Customs Union plays a pivotal role in Botswana's revenue and in linking the economy with the region and the rest of the world. As a small, landlocked economy, Botswana faces unique challenges in competing efficiently in the global and regional markets. In his opening speech the Honourable Assistant Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Charles Tibone observed that SACU's 100 years of existence was also characterised by challenges and it is therefore important for us to address these challenges as we celebrate this milestone. This will go a long way in determining our trade agenda in the future and will help us develop appropriate interventions to tackle the challenges. According to the Assistant Minister, one of the major challenges we face is the inability to formulate common policies, for example, industrial, competition and agriculture policies. Therefore harmonization of these policies is important as it is bound to lead to deeper regional integration.

When delivering her keynote address, the Executive Secretary for SACU Ms Tswelopele Moremi re-sounded the theme of the centenary "Implementing a Common Agenda towards Regional Integration in Southern Africa". She noted that the Customs Union faces a number of challenges owing to both internal and external pressures, in particular the different views concerning the equitable distribution of revenues and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations with the European Union (EU). Some of the challenges confronting SACU are:

- Slow progress in the establishment and effective operationalisation of the outstanding institutions like the Tariff Board and the Tribunal;
- Limitations in the 2002 SACU Agreement with increasing demands to broaden the scope of the agreement to include areas such as Trade in Services, Finance and Investment, Government Procurement, Environment, Market and Monetary Integration.
- Sustainability of the current revenue sharing arrangement, specifically in



view of the challenges arising out of the global financial crisis;

- Slow progress in the development of common policies as mandated by the agreement; and
- Positioning SACU within the integration context in southern Africa.

However, having evolved from a colonial arrangement, SACU has adapted to new needs and conditions and remained able to offer an effective mechanism of intergovernmental cooperation. The regional stability displayed by the SACU region over time should be a paramount guiding principle in making critical decisions in these challenging times.

Professor Roman Grynberg, Senior Research Fellow at BIDPA set the stage by his presentation on Botswana and SACU. The presentation examined the evolution of the Revenue Sharing Formula and the implications it has had on Botswana's revenue as well as the other small member states of the Customs Union that comprise Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland. Other presentations came from experts in South Africa, Namibia and Swaziland.

The commemorations attracted a broad spectrum of stakeholders including government ministries and departments, SACU, European Union, embassies, private sector and parastatals.

## Completed Research Projects

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### 1. Review of the Botswana National Strategy for Poverty Reduction: Social Protection

This study was commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

### 2. Review of the Botswana National Strategy for Poverty Reduction: Economic Diversification, Employment and Poverty Reduction

This is a project where BIDPA collaborated with Cornell University. The consultant from Cornell University worked with BIDPA researchers to consult stakeholders. The project was funded by the UNDP and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

### 3. Preparation for the Social Development Policy in Botswana

BIDPA conducted this study whose aim was to analyse the effectiveness of social development programmes in Botswana. The emphasis was on development programmes relating to targeting, geographical distribution, costs, fiscal accounting and reporting the development impact and their incidence on poverty levels and income distribution.

### 4. National Vision 2016 Opinion Survey on Progress Toward Reaching the Vision Goals

BIDPA undertook a National Household Survey on the progress of implementation of the National Vision 2016 goals on behalf of the National Vision 2016 Council. The objectives of the survey were to: Conduct a national household survey, based on questionnaire developed by Vision 2016 Council and Secretariat in conjunction with the consultant; Produce inception report on the household survey of citizens of Botswana on the achievement of Vision 2010 pillars; Produce and present a detailed study on the role of citizens of Botswana on the achievement of Vision 2010 pillars.

### 5. Six Questions Survey on Revenue Transparency in Botswana:

BIDPA was requested by the Revenue Watch Institute to act as "Referee" on a Questionnaire on Revenue Transparency in Botswana.

## 6. Open Budget Survey

The goal of the Open Budget Survey 2010 was to identify levels of transparency and accountability in public budgeting processes. The survey was conducted in ninety countries worldwide and was published as Open Budget Index 2010. The survey findings are intended to raise awareness of possible reform measures that might be adopted in order to improve the performance of important budget oversight institutions such as the legislature and the supreme audit institutions.

## 7. Botswana Tourism Policy

BIDPA has been commissioned by Ministry of Wildlife and Tourism to develop a Revised Tourism Policy. The objectives of the study were: To review the data and written reports with the view to prepare the Revised Botswana Tourism Policy; To review all available tourism related policies and issues with the view to incorporate them in the Revised Tourism Policy; To update aspects of the UNWTO reports that may now be outdated.

tenure witnessed seven PhD scholarships being awarded to BIDPA employees, and at the time of his departure four of these beneficiaries had graduated.

On the research front during his tenure the Institute maintained its performance of producing major research outputs that either fed into Government White Paper or major Government Policy change. His tenure also witnessed the first publication of a BIDPA book and by the time he retired a total of ten books had been published under the BIDPA name. Most close to his heart was the Export Diversification in Botswana book which he personally initiated by soliciting World Bank collaboration and funding. This work set a

## Dr Fidzani's tenure at BIDPA comes to an end

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**D**r. Happy Fidzani retired from BIDPA service at the end of August 2010 after heading the institute for nine years and three months. Before joining BIDPA, he had taught Economics at University of Botswana and had served as the Head of the Economics Department for six years.

One of the main achievements that Dr. Fidzani's tenure brought about was the upsurge of PhD training of citizen staff. While only one PhD candidate was sponsored during the five years prior to his joining BIDPA, Dr Fidzani's



*Dr. Happy Fidzani*

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stage for the Institute to start broader work on the subject of Economic Diversification.

Dr. Fidzani has not only served BIDPA but has been to the national service in different capacities. Among others he has served in the boards of the following organisations; Bank of Botswana (BoB), Botswana Meat Commission (BMC), Botswana International Financial Services Centre (BIFSC), Botswana Insurance Holding Limited (BIHL), ZS Botswana and the CEDA Founding Board.

He has also undertaken important national assignments such as serving as part of the Secretariat to the Business and Economic Advisory Commission (BEAC); he chaired the ad hoc committee that drafted the document on the Response to the Global Financial Crisis for the Office of the President. He is currently chairing the Committee on BIUST Review.

Dr Fidzani will continue to provide service to the nation through policy analysis research work.

## Publications

**Grynberg, R.** (2010). *Staple food prices in Botswana*. Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis Policy Brief No. 8.

**Moepeng, P.** (2010). *Rural poverty in Botswana: A case study*. Saarbrücken (Germany): Lambert Academic Publishing.

**Moepeng, P. and Tisdell, C.** (2010). *The pattern of livelihoods in a typical rural village*. Saarbrücken (Germany): Lambert Academic Publishing.

**Kaboyakgosi, G. and Pilane, N.** (2010). *Service delivery in a changing policy context*. Perspectives: A public governance journal, 1(1), 1- 7.

**Kaboyakgosi, G. and Magashula, A.** (2009). *Analysis of policies, guidelines, and implementation plan for healthcare waste management*. Gaborone: MMIS

**Harvey, C.** (Ed.). (2010). *Proceedings of the 2009 FOPRISA Annual Conference*. Gaborone: Lightbooks.

**Tabengwa, G.** (2010). *BIDPA Budget Briefing*. Gaborone: Associated Printers.



BIDPA is a non-governmental research institute concentrating mainly on development policy analysis and capacity building. The main focus is Botswana. However, BIDPA may engage in regional work. Within its areas of concentration, BIDPA seeks to: conduct and promote research; monitor the performance of Botswana's economy; survey the management of public policy implementation as it relates to economic and social development; provide consultancy service and advice to government agencies and other clients; offer technical and/or financial assistance for the facilitation of policy analysis; disseminate and publish research and consultancy results; and assist in professional training and public education in matters pertaining to policy analysis. While the Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Institute, authority and responsibility for all activities of the Institute lies with the Board of Trustees, which currently has the following members: Dr P. Molutsi (Chairman) - Tertiary Education Council; Mr O. Motshidisi - Bank of Botswana; Ms T. Pule - Office of the President; Ms M. Machailo-Ellis - BOCCIM; Prof. B. Otlhogile - University of Botswana; Mr K. Ndobano - Ministry of Finance and Development Planning; Ms C. Ramalefo - BOFWA; Mr P. Draper- South African Institute of International Affairs.