



# BOTSWANA STOCK EXCHANGE

## PRESS RELEASE

### BOTSWANA STOCK EXCHANGE ADOPTS MMEA PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS

**For Immediate Release, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2023:** The Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) is proud to announce the adoption of Mmea Primary School under the BSE Corporate Social Investment (CSI) Policy, **Dipoelo**. This adoption will span a 3-year period, solidifying the commitment of the BSE to contribute to the improvement of quality education in Botswana under the Government driven Adopt-a-School initiative.

On 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2023, the BSE floated an Expression of Interest inviting all Government Primary Schools to submit proposals requesting for adoption. During this period, the BSE received a total of 85 submissions from primary schools across Botswana. From those submissions, the BSE facilitated a thorough needs assessment of each school based on the number of students, pass rate, location and school priorities and identified Mmea Primary School as the ideal candidate for adoption.

Mmea, the village, has a population of around 1,047 inhabitants as per the 2022 population census. In terms of developments, the village has a tribal office, clinic and a school. The government officers found in the village are Kgosi, 3 Police Officers, a Social Worker, a Court Clerk, 3 Nurses and 15 teachers. The school admits learners around the village, surrounding settlements, and cattle-posts. The school has an enrolment of 337 learners (187 boys and 150 girls).

In terms of challenges, the school is understaffed and under-resourced. With respect to infrastructure, they have 10 classes conducted in classrooms while 6 classes are conducted outside. As most of the parents in the village rely on support from Government, most of the learners lack basic necessities such as full uniforms, stationery, text books and other learning material. To date, the school's pass rate is 48.8%, one of the lowest in the country.

The adoption of Mmea Primary School comes after the adoption of Kareng Primary School and Metsimantsho Primary School who are both public primary schools located in the North West District and Ghanzi District of Botswana, respectively from 2021 to 2023. These institutions are classified as rural education institutions due to their vastly remote locations - students attending these schools are from impoverished homes as majority reside from nearby cattle posts and small farming settlements.

During the adoption period, the BSE managed to assist both schools with standard 1 to standard 7 text books, exercise books, printing paper, pens, pencils, rulers, erasers, markers, staplers, manila papers, computers, 4-in-1 printers etc. In addition, the BSE also provided school management and students with branded BSE merchandise in the form of t-shirts and masks to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus that had plagued both respective schools since 2020.

Commenting on this development, the BSE CEO, Mr. Thapelo Tsheole said, ***“The BSE remains committed to making a positive impact on local communities and believes that education is a key driver of societal progress. Hence, today, we proudly embark on a transformative journey by adopting Mmea Primary School. Our aim is to cultivate a nurturing environment for learning, where every child can flourish and reach their full potential. Through this partnership, we hope to sow the seeds of knowledge that will grow into a future of prosperity for both the students and our nation.”***

The Adopt-a-School Initiative was introduced in 2011 to facilitate Private and Public Sector participation in the delivery of quality education across Botswana. Since inception, the BSE has actively participated in this initiative by adopting four (4) primary schools in the North-West District, Ghanzi District, South-East District and South District.

For more information, contact the following;

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