



Southern African Railways Association President Mr. Dominic R. Ntwaagae officially opens SARA International Conference and Exhibition 2014

Below is the Foreword from the SARA President;

“Sustainable Railway Infrastructure Development for Regional Economic Growth”



Botswana Railways Chief Executive Officer and SARA President Mr. Dominic R. Ntwaagae

The Southern African Railways Association International Rail Conference and Exhibition has grown rapidly over the past four years to become one of the very important events on the annual SARA and rail industry calendar. It has gener-

ated a lot of interest among key stakeholders as evidenced by the growth in participation and stakeholder support both at regional and global levels. Mozambique Ports and Railways (CFM) successfully hosted the SARA Rail Conference in Maputo in November 2012

which ran under the theme “Promoting Seamless Integration of Rail, Road and Port Transport Services in Southern Africa”. This conference saw a marked increase in participation from the public and private sectors alike. Attendance was diverse, ranging from honourable ministers, senior government officials, financiers, suppliers, customers, regional rail administrations, academic institutions and various other stakeholders. Chief Executives and senior officials from SADC railways who are the drivers of the event were in attendance.

Adequate representation of key stakeholder categories helped to bring railway issues to the fore and crafting of effective solutions to address regional railway challenges with a view to enable the rail transport industry to effectively support the SADC regional development agenda as espoused in the Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology. Contribution towards regional competitiveness remains a key area of focus for SADC railways.

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Honourable Minister of Transport & Communications - Botswana Mr. Nonofa Molefhi receiving his gift from Mr. Dominic Ntwaagae, BR Chief Executive Officer and SARA President at the SARA Conference held in Johannesburg, South Africa



Botswana Railways Director Business Development Mr. Stephen Makuke responding to a question during the Ministerial Panel discussion.

The concurrent Exhibition that goes with the Conference continued to provide the appropriate platform for showcasing of equipment and technology which can help transform the railway industry's service delivery processes and improve regional competitiveness. The exhibition generated a lot of interest from conference delegates and the public which resulted in constructive interaction among suppliers, honourable ministers, senior government officials, Chief executives and rail industry experts.

SARA acknowledges the need for rail transport industry to effectively support the rapid economic growth of SADC countries especially in the mining industry where transportation of bulk commodities is required. Railways are the ideal mode of transport in this regard. As such, railways' mandated economic role of providing efficient, cost effective seamless transportation services remains the guiding principle whose achievement

will promote regional economic growth.

The Conference objectives which are driven by both internal and external factors, are dictated by key rail industry issues for which solutions are required on a continuous basis. In this case we always focus on railway operations, infrastructure and equipment, regional and international business developments, human resources, technology, transport policy, ports, safety and environment. We strongly believe that the SARA Rail Conference and Exhibition is The Conference as it is developed by the railways, for the railways and its stakeholders.

The 4th Edition of the SARA Rail Conference and Exhibition comes



Botswana Railways Board Member, Mr. Adolph C. Hirschfeld at the SARA Conference (right)

with a lot of excitement considering the resounding success of the last conference held in Maputo which strengthened stakeholder confidence and the foundation on which the conference is based. It is evident to all that the Conference has improved significantly since its inception in 2010. Accumulated experience, broadening of the stakeholder base and feedback from delegates has helped in shaping the Conference and Exhibition to its current configuration.

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Botswana Railways Delegates; Mr. Justise Ramontsho, Director Operations & Engineering (left) and Mr. Kenneth K. Tamasiga, Internal Audit Manager

This year's event which runs under the theme "Sustainable Railway Infrastructure Development for Regional Economic Growth" builds on the achievements made at the last conference held in 2012. We believe that infrastructure is the backbone of railway business and as such needs to be accorded the highest priority. We expect extensive debate and generation of relevant solutions given the representation of key stakeholders at the Conference.

I wish to recognize and appreciate companies and individuals who invested their resources and time in the SARA Rail Conference over the years. Our sponsors for this year deserve special thanks as their support has not only ensured the success of the Conference but also broadened its scope. Exhibitors and delegates also played an important role by supporting this year's event.



SAFETY BRIEF

BR DISCOURAGES FOOD CONSUMPTION IN THE OFFICE



Instead of fingers on the keyboard, the big felony these days is crumbs on the keyboard.

There is a growing trend of food consumption in offices and other work premises which compromises hygiene, safety as well as the image of the organization especially where visitors and customers are concerned.

In order to promote safety, hygiene and office etiquette the Safety, Health,

Environment and Quality Office discourages the consumption of foodstuff in offices and other areas that are not designated as eateries.

The purpose of this practice is to offer a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere for other colleagues and most importantly customers and visitors of BR. The office must be a pleasant, clean and an inviting location for everyone in need of BR services.

Often times, some employees consume food in their offices and thereafter dump food left overs and wrappers in office bins. These unhygienic conditions can lead to unpleasant smells in the work premises and also can promote a breeding ground for creatures.

To curb this, BR encourages employees to desist from such practice and use of the Cafeteria for all eating activities.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Give us a brief introduction about yourself.?

My Name is Tebogo Mompoti Bojong, I am BSc Computer Science graduate from University of Botswana 2003. Am Partly qualified teacher with Post Graduate Diploma in Education. I served on my first appointment at Office of the Auditor General from 2004-2006 as IT Auditor. From 2006 to 2012 I worked for the Ministry of Lands and Housing Department of Lands as Systems Analyst. Last year Joined BPC as Service Desk Engineer at Morupule Power Station before Joining BR. Besides my professional work am a farmer at Western Sandveld farm no 8

Enlighten us on your department and your role in BR.

I am in the IT Department and as my position states "Application Support Officer" is to offer both low and high level support to all BR systems such as SYSPRO,VIS,VIZIRAIL, VIP e.t.c

How did you end up at BR and have you worked anywhere else before?

I applied for the position from the advert I saw on the weekend post newspaper, I have over 10 yrs of working experience in IT. My last employer was BPC. Prior to that I worked for Ministry of Lands and Housing Department of Lands for 8 years. Before that I was at the Office of the Auditor General that's where I started my career.

What motto drives you?

Life is a journey

Future ambitions?

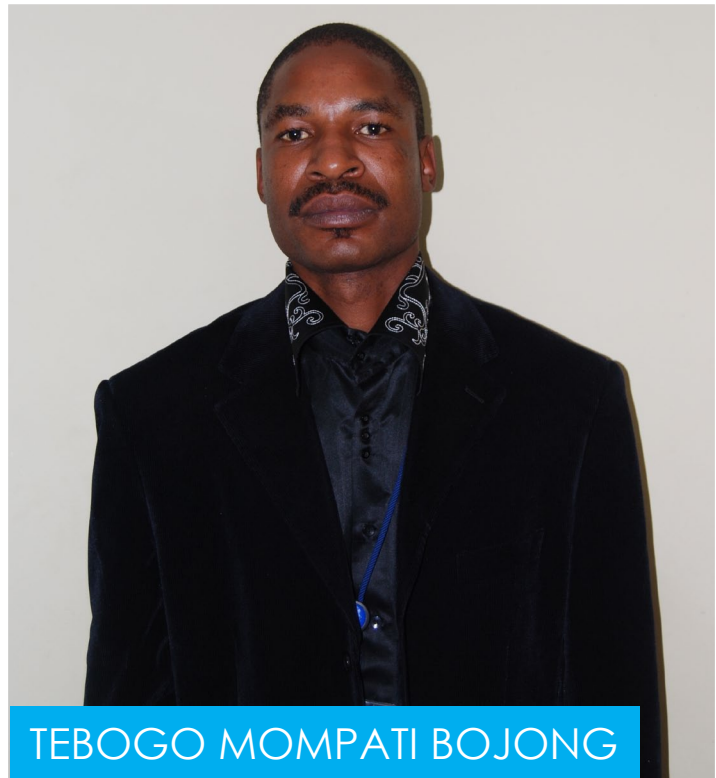
To be CEO somewhere some day maybe BR

What are you passionate about in life?

Computers/Systems/IT

Anything else you would like to share with the staff of BR?

I am happy to be a part of BR staff and hope to enjoy good working relations



TEBOGO MOMPATI BOJONG

PERSONAL PROFILE

NAME : Tebogo Mompoti Bojong

NICKNAME: BJ

DOB: 17/04/1979

POB: Gaborone

MARITAL STAU: Married

EDUCATION: University Of Botswana

CAREER: IT/Computers ()

MENTOR(S): Mr I.H. Tsatsa, Mr N. Monageng & Mr B.O. Bojong

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Rock

ARTIST: Bruce Dickinson of IRON MAIDEN

SPORT: Martial Arts (Tai Chi)

MOVIES: American Gangster

FOOD: Papa and Beef with Morogo(Setso)

HOLIDAY DESTINATION: Seychelles

CAR: Defender 110, Land Rover

COLOUR: Black

Give us a brief introduction about yourself.?

My name is Malebogo Wantwa, I come from Kanye, daughter of Mr & Mrs Wantwa. I have three siblings, one sister and two brothers and I have an eleven year old son called Theo G. Wantwa.

Enlighten us on your department and your role in BR.

I am in the Human Capital Department, which is aimed at implementing and improving Strategic Partnerships, customer satisfaction, operational efficiency, productivity and capacity to deliver. And my role as Human Capital Analyst is centered around four aspects being Data Analysis, Job Evaluation, Staff Development and Efficient Human Capital Solutions.

How did you end up at BR and have you worked anywhere else before?

I applied for the position of Human Capital Analyst, the Job title and the profile was interesting to me because naturally I have a very inquisitive mind I like to analyze things. I was interviewed for the position, I did my best, and I was hired. I have been in the field of Human Resources for the past 8 years. I started my career in 2006 working for Local Government, Kgaladigadi District Council (Tsabong) as Human Resource Officer, 2008 Selebi Phikwe Town Council Human Resource Officer II and Human Resource Officer I and 2010 Southern District Council as Senior Human Resource Officer. I then joined Water Utilities Corporation in 2012 as Human Resource Officer based in Mahalapye.

What motto drives you?

Being the best at what I set my mind on and dedicated towards quality, accuracy and efficiency.

Future ambitions?

I want to see myself running my own company, an HR Consultancy to be precise.


What are you passionate about in life?

Finding and implementing solutions to people issues in the work place.

Anything else you would like to share with the staff of BR?

You should use BR to unleash the unending potential you all have.



Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that frightens us most... when we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others. 

Marianne Williamson



MALEBOGO WANTWA

PERSONAL PROFILE

NAME : Malebogo Wantwa

NICKNAME: NIL

DOB: 27/06/1982

POB: Kanye

MARITAL STATUS: Single

EDUCATION: Degree in Social Sciences

CAREER: Human Resources

MENTOR(S): Mmoloki Mmolotsi, Amogelang Mojuta, Mr & Mrs Madumetse

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Jazz & Afro Pop

ARTIST: Puna Gabasiane

SPORT: Aerobics

MOVIES: Nil

FOOD: Chicken Salad

HOLIDAY DESTINATION: Mauritius

CAR: Range Rover (Evoque)

COLOUR: White

Give us a brief introduction about yourself?

I am Leungo Watson-Ben, from a family of four siblings and I am the second born.

Enlighten us on your department and your role in BR:

At the moment I am working as Human Capital Officer-Organizational Development. I will be carrying out overall Human Capital responsibilities, but 'biased' towards performance management.

How did you end up at BR and have you worked anywhere else before?:

I started working in 2007 when I joined EDCON as an Assistant Manager, before joining the Public Service at the Ministry of Finance and Development planning under the Training division. Then as I grew, I joined LEA from 2010- May 2014 before coming to Botswana Railways.

What motto drives you?:

'ITS POSSIBLE'-Leungo Watson-Ben

Future ambitions?:

A person through trailblazing achievements, worthy to be celebrated in all spheres of life, by all humanity.

What are you passionate about in life:

About what I put my time into. Time is a precious resource that cannot be replaced once lost, and my time is precious. I do not invest it if I am not passionate.

Anything else you would like to share with the staff of BR?:

'make each day your master piece'- John Wooden

“ And always remember, the difference between ordinary and extraordinary is a LITTLE extra. ”



LEUNGO WATSON-BEN

PERSONAL PROFILE

NAME: LEUNGO WATSON-BEN'

NICKNAME: N/A

DOB: 09 JULY

POB: MAHALAPYE

MARITAL STAU: MARRIED

EDUCATION: BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, and currently pursuing Masters Degree in STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

CAREER: Human Capital Professional

MENTOR(S): THE WORD

SPORT: I can play any sport I put my efforts towards. So far, I have been a basketball fanatic.

FOOD: Anything good but milk

HOLIDAY DESTINATION: Honolulu

CAR: it won't be a car then....

COLOUR: the then trending color....



Team Rail Giants flying Botswana Railways flag at the Vivo Softball National Championships Finals



Rail Giants and supporters celebrating after thrashing Scramblers

The National Diamond stadium was re-opened on the 7th of June 2014 after undergoing renovations for a while. The official opening of the stadium also marked the kick-off of the Vivo Softball national Championships where the top 4 teams in the country battled for supremacy.

The top 4 best teams included Botswana Railways Sponsored team Rail Giants, both males and female, the Botswana Defense Force Sponsored BDF IX, both male and female, and Scramblers from Francistown, Dinare and UB Giants. The day

began with the official opening of the facility by the Botswana National Sports Council Chairperson; Mr. Solly Reikeletseng. The first games kicked at 0900hrs between Rail Giants Ladies teams and Wells from Jwaneng. All teams started with guns blazing.

However the ladies from the mining town had an upper hand as they managed to register quick points to unsettle Rail Giants. The Botswana Railways team however managed to regroup and staged a dramatic comeback with some breath taking performance after mak-

ing some tactical substitutions. The changes paid dividends as the team managed to score two quick points but it was too late as the game ended in 4-2 in favour of Wells. The score placed Rail Giants Ladies team at position 4 and P11 000.00 richer. The ladies are still proud to have made an entry at the at the National Championship Finals.

The team's coach Romeo Tshelametsi said that he was confident of a win. He said the team did very well in its preparations. "The girls responded very well during the training

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Team Rail Giants flying Botswana Railways flag at the Vivo Softball National Championships Finals

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and I am happy with what they have achieved since it is their first time to be in the top 4", he said. Wells went on to lose against BDF IX Ladies in the finals played on the 8th June 2014.

Meanwhile, on the men's side Rail Giants who came into the top 4 as the group winner during the eliminations played another group winner BDF IX in a tactically tough game to decide who goes to the finals.

The army men proved to be tough opponents as they won the game 4-2. The result meant that Rail Giants have to play a decisive game against Scramblers, another army side from Francistown to join BDF IX in the finals.

The Botswana Railways team went into the game like wounded buffalos and easily defeated Scramblers 5-2 in a very entertaining encounter. Romeo Tshelametsi played

a big role in these games as he delivered some of his finest strikes as the pitcher. By the end of the games, the winning sides played together and BDF IX once again proved to be toughest as they beat Rail Giants 8-1.

Rail News congratulates Rail Giants for emerging second best in the country. The team got Silver medals and P17 000.00 cash.



Mr. Reginald Ditlogolo, Botswana Youth games Cycling team Coach

BOTRAIL CYCLING CLUB PARTICIPATES IN THE AFRICA YOUTH GAMES

The African Youth Games is an international multi-sport event held every four years to complement the current All-Africa Games.

The 2nd African Youth Games took place in Gaborone, from the 22nd to 31st May 2014 where Botswana Railways Cycling team participated.

Through the championing of Mr. Reginald Ditlogolo, a BR employee, the young

Botrail Cycling Club members; Jordan Klinck and Sethomo Masepe had the opportunity to tackle and tussle with some of the continent's best cyclists.

Despite no wins by the youthful cyclists, BR still celebrates the appointment of Mr. Ditlogolo who served as the coach in Road biking category for Botswana Cycling team at the Youth games. "The appointment came after the recognition

of our good work and performance as the Botrail Cycling team. We have recorded a few wins and always stage a good performance as a team wherever we participate in cycling activities", he said. Ditlogolo and his teams are determined to train more and participate in other activities as a way of improving their performance.

Botswana Railways commends the good work of Ditlogolo and his team at large.