

**Republic of Botswana**

# **NATIONAL POLICY ON CULTURE**

**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS  
(DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND YOUTH)**

**OCTOBER 2001**

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## **FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS**

We have embraced the onset of the 21st century determined to preserve and promote our culture for our pride and nationhood as well as for our future heritage.

By its nature, culture touches our lives individually and collectively in various ways and we often celebrate its diversity and richness through various activities like cultural festivals, song and dance, traditional and contemporary music and arts.

The Policy is no panacea to all problems relating to culture and its relationships to our social, economic and political systems. It simply stands as a facilitatory strategy for building our nation and our identity as distinct from other nations. Much as an attempt has been made to develop a broad and comprehensive policy that will meet aspirations of Botswana at large, not all issues could be covered, and not all issues will ever be, in a complex, but important Policy such as this one.

The implementation of the Policy calls for the concerted effort and contribution by all, starting with the family, through to government institutions, churches, local authorities, Dikgosi, non governmental organizations and the private sector. Only through such complementarity linkages can we live up to the words of wisdom, by the First President of the Republic of Botswana, Sir Seretse Khama who said:-

*“Our aspirations, our goals, our politics, our principles must be identified and expressed in terms, which our people understand. This means that we must build them on the foundations provided by Botswana’s culture and by Botswana’s values and traditions”.*

(BDP Conference, Francistown, 1st April 1972)

**THEBE D. MOGAMI  
MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The completion of this Policy could not have been achieved without the individual and collective contribution by the people of Botswana through their encouragement, persuasion and constructive criticism of the efforts of the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs.

There are those who made particular contribution to the development of this Policy that should be mentioned. These include the Botswana National Cultural Council, experts and researchers from the University of Botswana, Thapong, Botswana Society for the Arts, Maitisong and many others. From its formative years to the present, these stakeholders as well as local artists, creators, writers, the media, various expert groups on culture, have made verbal and written contributions to the Policy Draft. All efforts have been made to ensure that such contributions are incorporated in the Policy.

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# DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY ON CULTURE

## SECTION A

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Government has always recognised the need to preserve the national cultural and historical heritage as evidenced by the establishment of museums, archives libraries and monuments which currently fall under the portfolio responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs. The retention of the traditional institution of chieftainship under the Ministry of Local Government, to administer customary law; and the establishment at Independence in 1966 of the House of Chiefs to advise Parliament on matters of custom and tradition attest to the high regard in which our traditional culture is held.
- 1.2 The Ministry of Education stands out visibly, as the principal public agency for enculturation through its formal school curriculum and associated extra-curricular programmes and activities. The University of Botswana with its affiliated institutions is another vital asset in this regard. For many a young school or college leaver, the end of formal schooling signals the end or decline of active participation in leisure time pursuits on account of the lack of an environment that could help stimulate, nourish and sustain his/her interest in cultural activities.
- 1.3 Outside the formal education system, and apart from the role played by the Information and Broadcasting services in publicising and popularising traditional folk music and dance, poetry and drama, folk tales etc., the non-material or spiritual aspects of culture have been and continue to be kept alive through the efforts of some dedicated individuals, voluntary cultural groups, non-governmental organisations and professional associations. Financial assistance has come mainly from donor agencies, and to a lesser though steadily increasing extent from Government sources. It has been through the efforts of all these

groups and individuals that Botswana has featured prominently in some international festivals, conferences, seminars and rallies.

- 1.4 Cultural development must encompass the preservation of traditions, of history and of the moral, spiritual values and norms handed down by past generations, as well as address issues related to the present, contemporary creativity and the ultimate purposes and values suggested by the future.
- 1.5 There exists several national machinery for co-ordinating and supporting cultural development – initiatives as envisaged by the establishment of the Botswana National Cultural Council. As a result there has been no well co-ordinated and balanced development in this sector.
- 1.6 **VISION 2016**

Vision 2016 has set a new direction for Botswana, and states that “Botswana needs bold strategies to grow into the future”<sup>1</sup> A Policy on Culture is one such strategy that will take Botswana to 2016. The Policy is set to promote our pride and nationhood, and to enable us to own the future by being a tolerant, compassionate, just and caring nation. Our cultural values, traditions, history and our national principles will guide our efforts and actions in the years to come. As stated in the Long Term Vision for Botswana document, **Botho**, will become our overriding principle as we relate to our families, our communities, our nation and other nations.

## **2.0 DEFINITION OF CULTURE**

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<sup>1</sup> *Towards Prosperity For All: Long Term Vision for Botswana (pg 28)*

There are several definitions of culture advanced by culture experts, theorists and international agencies like United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisations (UNESCO).

Culture in the context of this Policy is understood here to be the whole complex of distinctive, spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterise a society or social group. It includes not only the arts and letters, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs.

### **3.0 RATIONALE FOR A POLICY ON CULTURE**

- 3.1 Botswana is an independent democratic state comprising of different ethnic groups which together represent a rich and diverse cultural heritage. This heritage gives Botswana a distinctive character from which it derives its unique personality. This valuable heritage must be preserved, nurtured and developed to foster a strong sense of national identity, pride and unity and to become a vitalising force in the development process.
- 3.2 Our multi – ethnic value systems, traditions and beliefs as reflected through the various languages, performing and visual arts as well as other forms of cultural expression constitute the strands of a broader national culture and need to be well researched in order to be known, appreciated and respected.
- 3.3 An enabling cultural environment provides scope for stimulating and harnessing the creative energies of a people, and the youth of our nation would be well served by the provision of facilities and services for their cultural self-expression in fulfilment of their leisure time needs and to earn a living.
- 3.4 Botswana has become part of the “global village” and its citizenry cannot therefore escape the impact upon its way of life of many foreign cultural elements which may enrich or weaken the indigenous cultural



values and social norms. The development and stimulation of the national culture will undoubtedly endow the people of this land with the capacity for selective assimilation of cultural values, norms and practices from foreign lands.

3.5 There is need for constant re-appraisal of certain cultural assumptions which may be found to be at variance with the notion of fundamental human rights especially in so far as these affect children, women and other disadvantaged groups in society.

3.6 As part of the international community Botswana will continue to expand and strengthen its relations with the world outside its borders. Cultural exchange programmes can make an immense contribution in this regard. Hence the need to widen the scope and raise the quality of cultural productions in the country.

3.7 All the above considerations point to the need for a national policy on culture which will be the basis for co-ordinated and comprehensive development of all aspects of culture. A National Policy on Culture should:

3.7.1 Define the broad framework within which culture in Botswana should be conceptualised.

3.7.2 Enable government and other stakeholders to appreciate how they share responsibility for the creation of mechanisms and the mobilisation of resources that will facilitate the development and implementation of programmes for cultural development.

3.7.3 Identify structures and strategies that can provide a conducive environment for the preservation, promotion and presentation of the cultural heritage.

#### **4.0 GOALS**

The broad goals of the national policy on cultural development will be:

- 4.1 to re-awake in the people of Botswana an appreciation of and respect for their own culture in order to reinforce a sense of national unity and pride.
- 4.2 to stimulate and foster creativity in all spheres of national life so that Botswana can continue to improve the quality of their own life whilst making their original contribution towards the vast store of human civilization.
- 4.3 to strengthen their sense of identity, thus sensitising Botswana to the need to assimilate innovation within the context of their own culture.

#### **5.0 OBJECTIVES**

- 5.1 Identify and promote elements of the traditional culture and integrate them into the contemporary culture and modern life in order that Botswana's evolving culture will embody its historical past and present manifestations.
- 5.2 Create a conducive environment for cultural preservation and participation by all the people of Botswana, in the form of:
  - infrastructure
  - programmes and services
- 5.3 Preserve and protect the cultural heritage by caring for and expanding historical monuments and sites, museums, archives and library collections, artistic and intellectual property.
- 5.4 Recognise and strengthen the interrelationship between culture, science and technology, education, health etc, to ensure that all

educational programmes will be strongly founded on Botswana cultural ideals.

- 5.5 Recognise the family unit as the basic institution for enculturation and thus support all efforts directed at inculcating and strengthening sound family values.
- 5.6 Assert our own cultural values, publicise and popularise our cultural products both nationally and internationally through vigorous and varied programmes of artistic performance and marketing.
- 5.7 Facilitate the establishment of various governmental and non-governmental structures and organs for the extension of cultural work and services.
- 5.8 Institutionalise mechanisms for consultation and collaboration between and among organs within the Government systems which have responsibility for culture related matters; and also between Government and Non-Governmental Organisations or individuals who in one-way or another give support to cultural programmes.
- 5.9 Define and recognise the respective roles of:
  - central government;
  - local authorities;
  - non-governmental organizations;
  - other stakeholders.
- 5.10 Commission research into culture to generate basic cultural data, facts and information that can be used to foster cultural understanding, education and development.
- 5.11 Ensure equitable distribution of resources for culture between urban and rural areas.

- 5.12 Provide for the training of all culture practitioners.
- 5.13 Encourage and develop district cultural interaction in order to promote the appreciation and understanding of our heterogeneous society.
- 5.14 Facilitate for a re-appraisal of certain cultural assumptions, practices and customs which lead to discrimination against certain sections of society for example; women, children, the disabled etc.
- 5.15 Provide for continuous monitoring and evaluation of cultural development policies, strategies and programmes to determine their effectiveness or otherwise.

## **SECTION B**

### **6.0 KEY POLICY ISSUES AND STRATEGIES**

#### **6.1 Cultural Identity**

Cultural Identity is one of the critical ingredients for nation building and attainment of national sovereignty. This does not imply a homogeneous culture, but rather, the acceptance and respect of other cultures as integral parts of the national stream.

#### **Strategies**

- a) strengthen the study, understanding and use of the national language and other local languages;
- b) assert our cultural values;
- c) preserve the cultural heritage through research and promotion of historical, oral and material cultural studies;

- d) strengthen existing cultural institutions and establish cultural centres where major cultural activities can be promoted.

## **6.2 Education**

Education in every society is an institutionalised means of enculturation or cultural transmission. As such cultural continuity and understanding depend largely on the content and method of this process of knowledge development and the inculcation of social and moral values. The curriculum of the education system must be based on the Botswana culture and provide programmes and facilities aimed at teaching skills of culture centred disciplines.

### **Strategies**

- a) expand the scope, resources and materials for extra-curricular activities in the field of culture within the school system;
- b) strengthen collaboration between teachers and parents in the development of the child, through Parents Teachers Associations and other fora.

## **6.3 Participation**

Popular participation in cultural activities is a necessary factor of social justice and an effective tool of social integration and international intercourse.

### **Strategies**

- a) provide free access to culture without undue restrictions;
- b) cultural facilities and services should be widely provided throughout the country;

- c) sponsor inter and intra district visits in the form of study missions and exchange programmes to promote national knowledge of all cultures;
- d) raise the level of literacy through Non-Formal Education, continuing and community education programmes;
- e) develop mass media components to provide the widest possible base for information dissemination;
- f) design facilities which are user friendly, particularly with respect to the disabled;
- g) provide amenities for cultural leisure time pursuits;
- h) organise regular district and national festivals as well as exhibitions.

### **Preservation**

Cultural preservation involves the storage, care and restoration of cultural property and values. These include both the tangible forms and intangible forms, oral traditions, folklore, beliefs, rites and games.

### **Strategies**

- a) widen the scope of materials that need to be preserved and expand the size of existing structures in order to accommodate additional items;
- b) facilitate the erection of structures within all cultural regions of the country in order for all cultures to deposit artefacts peculiar to their respective cultures;
- c) institute protective measures against vandalism, theft, illicit drug trafficking, trading and similar crimes;

- d) encourage preservation centres to serve the purpose of educating and informing people about their culture;
- e) provide a base upon which specific policies on preservation by museums, cultural centres, libraries and archives can be developed.

## **6.5 Employment, Trade and Industries**

These entail the utilisation of citizen skills to produce cultural goods and services which can be exchanged for cash.

### **Strategies**

- a) strengthen the cultural industry base for the production and marketing of handicrafts, paintings, sculptures and other cultural commodities;
- b) promote the continued production and marketing of intellectual property like books, music etc. by instituting proper mechanisms for ensuring copyright protection;
- c) promote locally produced industrial products by ensuring protection of patency and for marketing through strategies like “Buy Botswana”;
- d) conduct basic skill development and entrepreneurial courses for young aspiring artists as this will promote the viability of the private sector by improving self-employment;
- e) access financial assistance to the small cultural industries entrepreneurs through facilities like CEDA;
- f) improve operational links between sectoral agencies with responsibility for culture and the Departments of Tourism and Wildlife and National Parks.

## **6.6 Cultural Co-operation**

Cultural co-operation involves a conscious process of two or more countries deciding to work together on matters of culture with a view to exposing one to the other's social system via activities and exchange of both ideas and cultural items. This is done to promote peace generally, and the peaceful co-existence of the two or more countries in particular.

### **Strategies**

- a) Botswana should cooperate with other countries on cultural matters so as to open doors for training and exposure in cultural matters as well as exchange of manpower;
- b) ensure that areas such as the arts, archaeology, museums, archives, libraries, youth, women and sports, assume an increased role in the technical, educational and cultural co-operation and agreement entered into between Botswana and other countries at bilateral and multilateral level;
- c) strengthen the capacity of non-governmental organisations for the promotion of co-operation of these institutions and organisations themselves;
- d) promote fair and equitable cultural cooperation between Botswana and other countries to eliminate possibilities of cultural domination.

## **6.7 Research and Inventory of National Heritage**

Research involves the collection, collation, analysis and presentation of data, which can provide a base upon which development programmes and strategies can be articulated. Inventory of national heritage is an important aspect of national heritage, and actually facilitate research in the long term.



## **Strategies**

- a) compile an inventory of all aspects of national heritage;
- b) conduct scientific, artistic, historical, archaeological, anthropological and ethnographic studies;
- c) establish a national culture research committee to appraise and evaluate permits for conducting research;
- d) set up a research fund for use by local scholars and film makers interested in studies, research and film making relating to culture;
- e) produce and review periodically a directory of research concerning all cultural research that has been undertaken in Botswana.

## **6.8 Science and Technology**

Every society has its own Science and Technology, which is the driving force of first, its material culture and ultimately, the non-material culture. An improvement of these technologies coupled with the revitalisation of a people's culture, hence giving them the capacity to be part of the global village.

## **Strategies**

- a) assist the national population to have sufficient adaptive capacity to technological changes;
- b) make technological and new scientific development accessible to people through education and decentralisation of technology;

- c) adapt foreign scientific and technological products, which are for public use to the culture of the people;
- d) import science and technology together with ideas that go with it, which do not pose a threat to the main tenets of our culture, but rather enhance them;
- e) research and work on our traditional technology with a view to developing it for use today.

## **6.9 Traditional Medicine and Modern Medical Science**

Botswana, like other societies, has both a traditional and medical health care systems, which must be synthesised to achieve a well coordinated and functional health care programme.

The health programme is a top priority endeavour for the nation and hence all necessary mechanisms should be put in place such that the two health care systems can complement each other, based on the cultural beliefs, norms and practices of the Botswana.

### **Strategies**

- a) establish mechanisms that will allow/sustain a gradual change in the health care programme and ensure a symbiotic relationship between the traditional and modern health care system;
- b) adopt and adapt new and advanced medical technological products and initiatives, without neglecting the traditional health care systems;
- c) make accessible to the national populace, the health care facilities and amenities for purposes of effective implementation as well as ensuring all benefit from the programme;

- d) ensure the retention of all positive traditional health care practices for the upliftment of Setswana moral values and beliefs such as childbirth and confinement (*Botsetse*);
- e) employ civic education extensively to ascertain the flow of information on public health education.

### **6.10 Religion and Traditional Belief Systems**

Every society has traditional beliefs which act as its cultural bond. Even before the advent of modern civilisation, Botswana had traditional beliefs some of which need to be researched on, improved and enhanced. Beliefs which are not in conflict with modern religion and social ethics should be retained.

#### **Strategies**

- a) facilitate and support research on traditional religions and beliefs of the various tribes in Botswana;
- b) investigate the social, psychological and scientific curative effects of local herbs and plants on various real and perceived ailments/illnesses on people and animals such as *boswagadi*, *thibamo*, *boopa* and *thobega*.
- c) investigate the value of certain traditional healing procedures and how they can influence, compliment and district healthy life practices;
- d) ensure that the belief that the initiation scholars or systems of the young shaped their character and provided a forum for sexuality and reproductive health and family values is revived. The policy should facilitate an enabling environment for the investigation of the value of this cultural institution with a view to streamlining those aspects which should be retained as our heritage and promote those aspects that

could promote behaviour change for survival against the devastating diseases such as HIV/AIDS;

- e) promote recognition of certain “meila” which are believed to mould the characters of the young ones to strong values of respects, support and tolerance within the family and the community;
- f) employ extensive civic education, by all, against culture based health or medicinal practices that endanger human life in any form.

### **6.11 Culture and Tourism**

Culture is one of the major motivation factors for the development of tourism. Tourism can benefit from culture through, the diversification of the tourism product, enhancement of the product by acting as a pull factor, being a tourist attraction on its own and as a link with other sectors of the economy. Interchange of cultural experiences can flourish through tourism.

#### **Strategies**

- a) there should be a clear definition of all national heritage sites in the country to facilitate the exploitation of Botswana’s tourist attractions;
- b) standards of services should be improved in order to facilitate the selling of culture and performing arts as tourism products;
- c) provide technical advice and assistance to cultural workers and institutions in order to promote the provision of authentic cultural experiences and artefacts;

### **6.12 Culture and Environment**

As defined earlier, culture includes the modes of life, traditions and beliefs of a people. In traditional culture, these aspects are permeated and influenced,

and they in turn influence, people's relationships with their operational environments. As elsewhere in traditional Africa, modes of life in rural Botswana are invariably tied to the land in direct ways, manifesting themselves variously as agropastoralism, hunting and gathering, fishing or combinations of these.

Each mode of life is associated with distinctive practices, technology and cognition of beliefs about environment, all of which have a strong bearing on how the environment is used and managed. In fact, concepts such as ethnoscience, indigenous technical knowledge, ethnoecology, ethnobotany and ethnogeography, have been coined to recognise the existence of an accumulated fund of environmental knowledge among traditional peoples worldwide. Although some of this knowledge may be shrouded in mysticism, most of it has been proven to be practical, functional and worthy of preservation, complementing or further development for more sustainable environmental management.

### **Strategies**

- a) take practical steps towards the development of a data base on traditional environmental knowledge and management systems pertaining to various cultural groups in the country;
- b) evaluate traditional environmental knowledge and management systems to separate myth from fact, and environmentally unsound management systems or practices from sustainable ones;
- c) promote awareness and adoption of complementary or alternative environmental knowledge in order to foster more sustainable national unity and effectively assist and facilitate participation in developmental issues.

### **6.14 Cultural Values and External Influences**

Botswana should be able to identify, nourish and monitor those cultural values which lay a solid foundation for national development. In order to achieve this, research on key traditional institutions of *mephato*, *bogwera* and *bojale* with a view to identifying those aspects which would form a base for promoting cultural values, is of critical importance. These should assist in resuscitating the spirit of respect, tolerance, compassion, national pride etc. Most importantly to ensure that Botswana cultural values, aspirations and expectations constitute family values.

In this regard, families should be encouraged, supported and assisted to transmit to children cultural values that will promote nationhood, and assist Botswana to adapt beneficial external cultural values. On the understanding that culture is dynamic and not static, our culture will be influenced by ideas, technologies and events at the regional as well as international levels. Enhance the idea that a family is the most important symbol and unit of our society and all families be encouraged to ensure effective transmission of cultural values to children.

### **Strategies**

- a) ensure development of several strategies to disseminate knowledge of, and appreciation for the positive values in cultural practises;
- b) encourage debates and research on cultural practices and values with a view to dispelling many of the unfortunate myths and misconceptions so erroneously associated with culture;
- c) ensure that the school system includes the principles and values of Vision 2016 in respect to building a culture of a proud and prosperous nation;
- d) ensure development of a system of agencies like schools and youth organisations which would enhance the respect for helpful cultural values;

- e) incorporate culture in the education system and in the work place;
- f) reinforce the concept of extended family system with emphasis on the advantages the society derived the reform;
- g) promote the protection of practices intended to promote and consolidate family relations such as *patlo*, *bogadi* and traditional marriages.

### **6.15 Culture and Gender Relations**

Women and girls tend to suffer the effects of cultural stereotypes, attitudes, indirect and direct marginalisation in various areas, including in particular, decision-making, inheritance, succession, ownership of property and leadership. Significantly there is evidence of entrenched inequality in the context of socialisation, gender relations and the general practice of common law and customary law.

The effects of these are encapsulated in the low levels of leadership positions, prevalent poverty, particularly among female headed households, increased instances of domestic violence, general inequality and imbalanced gender relations both in the modern and traditional settings. A lot of efforts, and advances have been made to address such imbalances and inequalities by both government and NGOs through the National Policy on Women in Development (1996), National Gender Programme (1988), issue areas as raised by the NGO Coalition and other NGOs, information dissemination and various other programmes within and outside government. These on their own would not yield any long term results because of the entrenched cultural values, attitudes, norms and practices that disadvantage and disempower women.

In this context the National Policy on Culture sets out to make a contribution to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women, to reduce and

eliminate gender inequalities and imbalances. The positive influences on the cultural norms, values and practices would lead to reduced violence against women and poverty, and will further facilitate a process whereby more women assume leadership and decision making positions in Botswana.

### **Strategies**

- (a) facilitate the implementation of the gender policies and programmes to achieve a culturally supportive society to the rights and status of women in Botswana;
- (b) facilitate fora and strategies aimed at changing cultural practices that encourage general violation of the human rights of women and protection against practices such as domestic violence, rape, abuse and denial or disadvantaged property rights;
- (c) ensure that there is effective and equal treatment of marriages contracted under customary law and civil law in as far as property rights are concerned;
- (d) encourage fair and equal treatment of girls and boys by parents, relatives and chiefs on issues of inheritance;
- (e) encourage fair treatment and consideration on matters of property dissolution between partners living in co-habitation for a long time, in life or deceased, whether such co-habitation was by individual choice or by parental arrangements;
- (f) promote adoption of cultural values, norms and practices at family level that will promote gender equality between boys and girls;
- (g) develop programmes and strategies that will assist women, as important agents and catalysts of cultural heritage, to effectively pass cultural knowledge to children;



- (h) promote the protection and marketing of cultural/traditional crafts as a means for enhancing the role of women in cultural industries development, and as an important economic resource base, especially for female headed households.

## **6.16 Youth and Children**

Youth and children are a mirror of society, in that the nation sees its achievements, and its potential for the future in its own children. Children and youth, thus constitute an irreplaceable resource and heritage. It is a challenge to the nation to make sure that youth and children are properly guided and moulded in Botswana's own culture, this is important for preserving the nation's identity and pride. Through Vision 2016, Botswana assures its youth and children of a future. In other words they are our future and our pride.

Botswana youth have embraced national culture, especially in the area of performing arts and have made Botswana proud in traditional song and dance, theatre, choral music, art and crafts. They have also on the other hand, experienced tremendous pressure to embrace, adopt and preserve aesthetic cultural values, norms and practices, while at the same time they have to contend with foreign culture transmitted through modern technology such as television and the internet.

In some areas, cultural practices have disadvantaged youth and not assisted them to grow and cope with external pressures. Such include lack of information on sexuality, gender relations, property rights, etc. Culturally based practices have also inadvertently led to silence, among youth, children, and parents, on issues pertaining to domestic violence, sexual abuse and rape.

The HIV/AIDS scourge has had an impact on the safety of the extended family network and support system to relatives' children. This has had the effect of youth headed households, the introduction of foster care homes and perhaps

in the long run, institutionalised homes, where socialisation and cultural teachings will be passed on through institutionalised structures and not the family.

This scenario presents a great challenge to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Policy on Culture.

### **Strategies**

- a) facilitate the implementation of all policies and programmes pertaining to the rights and welfare of youth and children;
- b) ensure effective implementation of the National Youth Policy in as far as the promotion of culture is concerned;
- c) ensure that Botswana adheres and implements national, regional and international laws, conventions pertaining to the rights of children and youth. Issues of relevance are the right to culture and cultural rights of children;
- d) develop culturally based strategy aimed at eliminating ignorance among youth relating to sexuality, domestic violence, sexual abuse and rape;
- e) ensure that the girl-child is not disadvantaged by cultural practices, such as early marriages, and being care providers within the family;
- f) promote educational and health strategies aimed at improved communication, information and knowledge transfer between parents and youth on issues of sexuality, reproductive health, domestic violence, sexual abuse and rape with a view to promoting positive behaviour and minimising risks that can expose youth to trauma, HIV/AIDS and latent social behaviour problems;

- g) promote expansion of the learning of cultural values, norms and practices through the school system;
- h) encourage the development of dynamic cultural programmes on local television and radio stations as well as other media for the benefit of youth and children;
- i) encourage the introduction and expansion of scholarships for cultural and creative studies for youth;
- j) promote cultural exchange programmes, volunteerism, work camps and boot camps among Botswana youth for educational and enrichment purposes;
- k) encourage the use of, and application of our cultural values at family and other levels, to instil in Botswana youth and children, a sense of discipline, responsibility and accountability as individuals and/or groups.

### **6.17 Crafts, Literary, Visual and Performing Arts**

These constitute an important component of national cultural industries. Botswana is endowed with talent in these areas, however the level of development of each of these components is still at a very low level. This challenges us as a nation to adopt policies, programmes and strategies to promote the development of talent and creativity and the general growth of local cultural industries, through specific and tailored support packages to budding crafts people, writers, visual and performing artists.

#### **Strategies**

- a) facilitate the development and protection of local cultural industries;
- b) promote the protection of rights and privileges of cultural industrialists;

- c) encourage the formation of bargaining groups, unions and association of artists and creators for improved welfare and excellence among these;
- d) ensure an effective and responsive Copyright and Neighbouring Rights system as well as relevant collection agencies;
- e) promote the protection of artists and creators in accordance with national, regional and international conventions;
- f) protect local industries against effects of influx of foreign cultural products such as music, films and video as well as artworks and crafts;
- g) facilitate support to budding crafts people, writers, visual and performing arts by government, non-governmental organisations and the private sector;
- h) promote the training of audio, visual and performing artists in the country to eliminate the scarcity in these areas and contribute to the sustainability of user agencies such as radio and television.

## **SECTION C**

### **7.0 KEY ROLE PLAYERS**

The implementation of the National Policy on Culture is a big national challenge which requires the cooperation and participation of all the different role players. These include Botswana individually and collectively through formal and informal groups, government agencies, non-governmental organisations, local authorities, dikgosi, the private sector, artists, creators and culture experts and most importantly, the media.

## **7.1 Central Government**

The Ministry charged with the responsibility for Culture must be the co-ordinator of the national policies and catalyst in their implementation. The major operational functions in policy implementation will be:

- 7.1.1 **Defining** and **determining** overall government programmes on culture.
- 7.1.2 **Identifying** priorities and determining the programme of action based on stated objectives of the National Policy on Culture, with full knowledge of available resources and constraints.
- 7.1.3 **Devising strategies**, which will promote volunteerism and complementarity of knowledge and skills between **youth work, culture and sport among youth**; and for promoting the practice of traditional games and recreation. This will be done in conjunction with the Botswana National Youth Council, the Botswana National Sports Council and the Botswana National Cultural Council.
- 7.1.4 **Providing** and **maintaining** major infrastructures for national cultural programmes and activities, with full community participation.
- 7.1.5 **Researching** various areas of the cultural heritage identified both in the short and in the long term for the purpose of establishing proper promotion and preservation strategies.
- 7.1.6 **Documenting** initial cultural assumptions on a variety of issues, as well as the results of research, with a view to provide in Botswana objective analysis of cultural issues in the full knowledge that such assumptions and research findings may be modified in the light of new findings.
- 7.1.7 **Setting up** and **maintaining** administrative structures to facilitate effective implementation of the policy and programmes.

7.1.8 **Providing** legislation required for implementing the policy, principles and strategies, international conventions and cultural agreements.

7.1.9 **Serving** as the major source of support to cultural programmes and activities.

7.1.10 **Ensuring** that the curricula and the school system as a whole take cognisance of cultural factors and promote its learning and preservation. This will be done in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, and to some extent the Ministry of Local Government.

7.1.11 **Financing** training in culture centred disciplines through the Department of Student Placement and Welfare and through in-service training courses.

7.1.12 **Encouraging** the formation of cultural associations or unions, by making provision for technical and financial support, with due regard to resource limitations.

## 7.2 **Botswana National Cultural Council**

The Botswana National Cultural Council (BNCC) was established as an advisory body by the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs in March 1992, and reconstituted in 1999 would play an important role in the implementation of the Policy. It will significantly disseminate information and transfer knowledge about Botswana culture through its sub-committees<sup>2</sup>:

- Policy, Programming and Coordination;
- Research and Information Dissemination;
- Arts, Talent and Creativity;
- Languages;
- Religions.

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<sup>2</sup> Terms of Reference of the BNCC Sub-Committees are presented as Appendix 1.

As the advisory body in matters relating to policies and programmes of cultural bodies and agencies in the country, the BNCC will be responsible for:

- a) Acting as the supreme advisory cultural body on all policies and programmes by cultural institutions, groups and associations in Botswana.
- b) Advise Government on the efficient co-ordination and management on cultural matters at national, sectoral and institutional levels.
- c) Advise Government on the formulation, review and evaluation of the National Policy on Culture.
- d) Propose strategies for the development of various aspects of culture.
- e) Advise on strategies for dealing with issues affecting culture arising from sectors such as gender.
- f) Advise on cultural programmes and activities for governmental and non-governmental funding with a view to promoting talent and creativity in Botswana.
- g) Propose roles for all stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the National Policy on Culture.
- h) Devise and recommend strategies for increased Government, NGOs, Parastatal and Private Sector role in cultural development and financing of cultural activities.
- i) Participate and advise on the implementation of the bilateral and multilateral cultural agreements and programmes entered into between Botswana and other governments or intergovernmental agencies such as SADC and UNESCO.

- j) Advise on any other activities that may promote culture.

### **7.3 Local Authorities**

While central government through the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs assumes the responsibility for policy formulation, dikgosi and local authorities are best placed to carry out the advocacy, promotion, and preservation of culture, and the implementation process at a grassroots level, because of their close contact with the people actively involved in cultural activities.

Local authorities will be responsible for:

- a) encouraging and supporting the establishment of infrastructural facilities for cultural activities for example, at the local level like amphitheatres, theatres, exhibition centres and curio shops;
- b) promoting and encouraging local cultural events as well as community initiated cultural programmes;
- c) establishing, within their administrative structures, agencies/offices to deal with local cultural matters;
- d) encouraging and holding of the celebration of the National Culture Day and district cultural festivals to promote wider cultural participation, stimulate creativity and to identify outstanding talent for further development;
- e) providing technical and financial support to local cultural groups and schools to promote local cultures;
- f) encouraging and assisting cultural groups to retain their identity by facilitating the teaching of culture to youth by local/village culture activities and experts;



#### 7.4 Dikgosi

Dikgosi played an important role in attaining nationhood of the people of Botswana as signified by the Three Dikgosi (Bathose I, Sechele II and Khama III) seeking protection of the nation under the British rule and their active role in constitutional development. *Dikgosi* still have significant influence and authority at grassroot level on matters of culture and are therefore better placed to promote the protection and preservation of culture and national genealogical heritage:-

*Dikgosi* shall therefore be responsible for:

- a) promoting through relevant local and national structures, such as the House of Chiefs, cultural preservation as well as enhanced role and recognition of culture in national development;
- b) reviving those institutions and values that constitute '*Botho*' in our nation;
- c) encouraging the peer group education strategies and initiatives like '*bogwera*' and '*bojale*' which have been replaced by negative peer groups such as youth gangs;
- d) maintaining the environment of peace and democracy through the promotion of participation and tolerance at grassroot by men, women and youth through the concept of '*mmualebe*' and preservation of the *kgotla* system;
- e) promoting law and order through effective judiciary, and mediatory roles in conflict at family and local level;
- f) promoting standardisation of mediatory processes and procedures in complex cultural matters such as inheritance and succession.

## **7.5 Non-Governmental Organisations**

Non-Governmental Organisations are better placed to be innovative, flexible and creative and should thus be encouraged to expand their involvement in matters of cultural promotion and development.

They will be encouraged to initiate and implement culture projects within the national policy framework by:

- a) Contributing to the training of cultural practitioners through in-service training and attachments.
- b) Mobilising funds from several sources including the private companies, and individuals for cultural programmes.
- c) Assisting in the establishment of cultural groups, associations and unions for effective representation of artists' views and rights, and facilitate exchange of experiences and knowledge at national, regional and international levels.
- d) Promoting professional efficiency among culture activists and advocates to carry out research on various aspects of culture.

## **SECTION D**

### **8.0 INSTITUTIONALISING CULTURAL RESEARCH**

There shall be established a Cultural Research Committee which will advise on Cultural Research and priorities. The Research and Information Dissemination Sub-Committee of the Botswana National Cultural Council will be the Secretariat.

The Cultural Research Committee shall be responsible for:-

- i) Advising on the carrying out of studies and research by expert departments on various aspects of culture, including the role and status of artists, craftspeople, cultural animators, etc.
- ii) Ensuring adequate supply of equipment, personnel and finances in order to achieve cultural research objectives.
- iii) Cultivating, developing, encouraging research in the performing, crafts and visual arts in Botswana and facilitate publications thereof.
- iv) Ensuring establishment, and functioning of a cultural research journal for the dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge or information concerning Botswana culture and the arts and for publicising cultural activities.
- v) Ensuring that research and films produced by external scholars, researchers and film makers comply with the national regulations and laws pertaining to that.
- vi) Liaising with other institutions such as BIDPA, Directorate of Research and Documentation of the University of Botswana, Media Advisory Council and National Broadcasting Board on matters relating to research content and focus, and dissemination of all cultural information and knowledge. Thereby enhance the role of culture in development.
- vii) Ensuring that Botswana's role in cultural research and cultural heritage within SADC, Africa and UNESCO is enhance, through production of scholarly researches, studies, debates and concept papers by various people, including academics, practitioners and experts in different aspects of culture.

## **SECTION E**

### **9.0 THE IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURES/AGENCIES**

#### **9.1 Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs,**

This Ministry being responsible for professional and technical implementation of the Policy will through its Departments of Culture and Youth, National Archives, Library and National Museum, as well as other agencies, co-ordinate and provide leadership in the implementation of this Policy. It will however be professionally compromising to give a singular mandate to the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs alone to implement this policy. This calls for a multisectoral implementation machinery to be put in place.

Therefore, in view of the complexity and highly professional challenges embodied in culture, several Ministries will individually and collectively, beginning National Development Plan 9, place themselves ready for sectoral implementation of the Policy as it affects them. This will be with a view to ensuring that there are determined plans and strategies at sectoral level to promote, preserve and develop Botswana culture effectively, and to realise the ideals of Vision 2016.

#### **9.2 Ministry of Local Government**

This Ministry must develop programmes, projects and promote activities relating to aspects of culture relevant to it. Give increased support to such critical institutions such as local authorities and Dikgosi, including the promotion of cultural issues as far as possible in programmes relating to children, foster care homes, the Convention on the Rights of a child, care for the elderly and the role of the family in nation building.

#### **9.3 Ministry of Health**

This Ministry's major role relates to the promotion of healthy lifestyles and practices through culture. In particular relating to maternal and child care, youth reproductive health, sexuality and HIV/AIDS as well as the protection of children in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of a Child. Therefore, the Ministry will develop specific programmes aimed at enriching our culture through health and promote 'acceptable' traditional health practices, with due regard to the protection of human life.

#### **9.4 Ministry of Education**

This Ministry has a critical role in the transmission of culture through the school system and on issues of training culture experts, animators, artists and creators through provision of training opportunities and funding. The Ministry must therefore develop internal sectoral policies and programmes aimed at the effective implementation of the Policy.

#### **9.5 Ministry of Lands, Housing and Environment**

This Ministry has a critical role in promoting knowledge and skills about indigenous housing and architecture as well as protection of the local environment, which form an important part of our culture. The Ministry will therefore implement programmes aimed at enriching the Policy and which will also promote the use of cultural knowledge to protect the local flora and fauna heritage.

#### **9.6 Ministry of Trade, Industry, Wildlife and Tourism**

This Ministry's critical role relate to the development, promotion and protection of local cultural industries such as cultural tourism, crafts and performing arts through several policies, programmes and legislation such as Copyright and Neighbouring Rights. The Ministry will therefore ensure and promote compliance with regional and international conventions, treaties and agreements relating to the protection of cultural industries as well as ensure that support/financial schemes are extended to other cultural activities like

crafts, visual and performing arts. The Ministry will support the protection of local flora and fauna as part of our cultural heritage of Botswana.

#### **9.7 Ministry of Finance and Development Planning**

Funding and resource mobilisation for culture is of critical importance for the overall and effective implementation of the Policy. The Ministry will also ensure that culture facilitates development and contributes to cost recovery through performing arts, crafts and tourism.

In this context, this Ministry will facilitate an enabling environment for increased resource provision for cultural development and national heritage through development and recurrent budgets. It should be noted that the returns on the investment on culture are more qualitative than quantitative, and there is no value to the cost of culture to nation building.

#### **9.8 Private Sector**

Culture stands to contribute to the growth of the private and informal sectors through advertising and manufacturing of cultural products. The private sector is thus challenged to support the development of cultural industries through sponsorship, promotion and marketing, especially in the area of crafts, music and other performing arts.

#### **9.9 Office of the President**

The Office of the President through the Department of Information and Broadcasting has a critical role to play in the promotion of Botswana culture and performing arts through the radio, television and print media. This will be done in due consideration of the protection of the copyrights, neighbouring and related rights of artists.

Generally, integration of culture and performing arts in the programmes of the national radio and television will assist the Department of Information and Broadcasting to comply to the National Broadcasting Act.

## ***Appendix 1***

The Botswana National Cultural Council was established in 1992 and restructured in 1999. The following sub-committees are to facilitate effective debate, consultation and participation by various stakeholders and constituents in its deliberations, as well as advice, and assist in the implementation of the National Policy on Culture.

The sub-committees and their Terms of Reference are:-

(1) **Policy, Programming and Coordination**

- a) Critically examine policy, programming and coordination issues, recommend innovative reviews and strategies to Government.
- b) Provide any other relevant technical advisory services as may be requested from time to time towards the development of national culture.

(2) **Research and Information Dissemination**

- a) Encourage research and knowledge about Botswana culture at international, regional, national, district and local levels.
- b) Facilitate a forum for sharing information and skills to enhance the development and quality of information on culture to the nation.
- c) Define and recommend Data banking and Information Technology in the areas of culture for publicity and learning purposes.



- d) Propose strategies and implementation mechanisms for the achievement of national cultural development objectives and Vision 2016 principles.

(3) **Arts, Talent and Creativity**

- a) Recommend mechanisms for the co-ordination of arts, talent and creativity which constitute important aspects of culture.
- b) Advise on standards and methodologies for controlling importation of performing and visual arts into Botswana.
- c) Mobilise technical and financial support from various sources for the professional development and unionisation of the various codes of arts.
- d) Advise on development, maintenance and expansion of National Data Bank on the arts, talent and creativity in Botswana.

(4) **Languages**

- a) Facilitate the development of an inventory of all the indigenous languages of Botswana and analyse their level of development, use and limitations.
- b) Devise strategies aimed at developing and encouraging the use of various indigenous languages at local level to facilitate national cohesion.
- c) Develop an inventory of policies that directly and indirectly impact on the development and use of Botswana indigenous languages and describe processes in place to implement such policies.

- d) Commission research on the various aspects of Botswana's indigenous languages.
- e) Make recommendations to government on all of the above with clear implementation strategies and monitoring and evaluation procedures.

(5) **Religions**

- a) Facilitate the development of an inventory of various religions, religious beliefs and organisations and their social practises.
- b) Research on various religions and religious beliefs and organisations' contribution towards social morality and social solidarity.
- c) Make recommendations to Government with clear implementation strategies, monitoring and evaluation procedures.