



# **BOTSWANA INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONS**

**P.O. Box 827  
Gaborone**

**Fax: 3971181**

**Mobile (Executive secretary): 7181 6811**

**e-mail: [bidp@mega.bw](mailto:bidp@mega.bw)**

**website: <http://www.bidp.bw>**

## **REPORT OF THE BIDP PRESIDENT TO THE 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the 31<sup>st</sup> BIDP AGM.

I would like to begin by thanking all those who have taken the time to come to the AGM, and also those who have not been able to come but have sent proxy forms.

We have had a busy and challenging year since we last met for an AGM in October 2008.

One of the most immediate challenges that we tackled following that meeting was how to ensure that we achieve a quorum at our AGM. For several years we have had a problem enticing a sufficient number of members to attend to achieve a quorum. This is an indication both of how boring these meetings can be and of how busy our members are. We considered amending the constitution to reduce the number required for a quorum, but decided instead to adopt a more positive, two pronged strategy. We have provided a carrot in the form of a slideshow following the meeting, and also sent out proxy forms so that those members who are unable to attend can still make their presence felt by appointing those that can attend as their proxies. Hopefully this will address the problem.

I will highlight a few other initiatives that have taken place in the past year, several of which will hopefully reach maturity in the years to come.

### **Competition.**

We initially decided to offer a BIDP prize for 'Excellence in Integrated Design' to UB students as a means of encouraging awareness of this approach which is central to the achievement of energy efficiency and environmental sustainability in the built environment. We were however informed that this would require a deposit of at least P20,000 with UB, the interest from which would be used to pay the prize money. This was felt to be more than we could afford, and we have now decided to run the competition independently of UB, while still targeting students, both at UB and other institutions in Botswana and elsewhere. The details of the competition are still to be finalised, and hopefully it will be inaugurated in the coming year.

### **BIDP Directory.**

Much work has gone into the design and layout of a new Directory over the past two years, but this was delayed for various reasons until it became redundant before ever reaching the printing presses. This lead us to decide that it would be more effective to develop the Directory as on on-line resource. This will allow for greater creativity, including the possibility to link directly to members' websites and other resources, and making it possible to update the resource at any time without a complete new print run.

A number of quotations have been received for the re-design of our website, including the on-line directory, and potential suppliers will be invited to make presentations to Council in the near future so that the contract can be awarded.

David Young has been given the task to update the access to forms on our website so that our customers will have improved access to some of the publications that can be obtained on-line.

### **Events.**

Two events have been arranged this year as follows.

A visit to the construction site of the Lobatse Sports Complex in February 2009 was well attended and gave members an opportunity to see a well organised complex construction site in full swing.

A slide show on Diamond Buildings in October 2009 will coincide with the AGM. Two presentations on different buildings will be presented, with an opportunity for discussion afterwards. Invitations have been sent to the other relevant organisations.

### **Revised Building Regulations**

Further work has been done to contribute to the development of the revised Building Regulations. A revised draft was presented to the steering committee following review by the Attorney General's Chambers. There continue to be fundamental causes for concern that have been communicated to the relevant authorities.

### **Contracts Committee**

The Contracts Committee held regular meetings, and are working with other organisations to ensure that the Form of Sub-Contract is appropriate to the needs of Government and other stakeholders.

### **Energy Efficiency Strategy**

BIDP has contributed to the development of the Energy Efficiency Strategy for Botswana and participated at a Stakeholders workshop and a Seminar that were convened to provide opportunities for consultation on the Strategy.

### **BOCCIM**

We continue to enjoy membership of BOCCIM. This provides a number of useful opportunities, including access to regular information that is distributed to BOCCIM members, as well as a vehicle to communicate with industry stakeholders, for example through the High Level Consultative Forum. This is an area that could be explored further in the coming year.

### **Members Concerns**

BIDP is well placed to assist in addressing common concerns of its members, both through its membership of BOCCIM and through other channels. This however requires improved communication between members and Council so that we are fully aware of what such concerns are and how widespread they may be. We therefore extend an invitation to members to let us know of issues that you would like to have addressed by your organisation.

### **Summary**

To sum up, this has been a reasonably eventful year, and a lot of hard work has gone into consolidating the organisation, much of which may only come to fruit in the coming year and beyond.

**Thank you.**

A big thank you to Ellen Tshoganetso for a great job well done in keeping the office in order, preparing and circulating minutes and doing all the other jobs that we keep sending her way.

Thanks to our three Secretaries, Edward Mazhani, Efraim Dondofema and David Young for their excellent work in taking Minutes of meetings as well as their other duties.

Thank you also to our Treasurer, Gerrit Vlug who has again successfully carried us through another year with the books in balance, and our modest reserves substantially intact.

And finally, thanks to all the other members of the Council who have contributed in many ways to keeping BIDP up and running for another year.

Andreas Groth. MBIDP  
October 2009