



## BOTSFA

### Annual Report 2009

#### 1 Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on March 14, 2009 at Etnografiska museet, Stockholm, in conjunction with AGMs for other southern African friendship associations.

- 1.1 The AGM benefited from an excellent presentation by Jenny Söderqvist and Helene Åberg, SVT journalists and authors of Exit Kalahari, on their nightmare journey following the burning of their vehicle in Central Kalahari Game Reserve in 2006.
- 1.2 Participants also viewed No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency, the movie based on Alexander McCall Smith's books.

#### 2 Executive Committee

- 2.1 **Election.** The Annual General Meeting, attended by 38 members, elected Ulla Odqvist Chairperson of the Executive Committee, and the following members to be part of it:

Ulla Beckman, Seboleleng Bertilsson, Birgitta Karlström Dorph, Julia Majaha-Järtby, Folke Löfgren, Anne Murray, Pretty Phologolo, Rasmus Rasmusson and Mats Ögren Wanger

#### 2.2 Constitution of Executive Committee

- Vice Chairperson: Anne Murray
- Secretary: Seboleleng Bertilsson
- Treasurer: Ulla Beckman
- Members: Birgitta Karlström Dorph, Julia Majaha-Järtby, Folke Löfgren, Pretty Phologolo, Rasmus Rasmusson, and Mats Ögren Wanger. .

#### 3 Executive Committee meetings/General Meetings

- 3.1 **The Executive Committee met** on seven occasions during 2009.

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**3.2 One General Meeting** was held during 2009 at Etnografiska museet on October 9, attended by some 30 members. The much appreciated program was comprised:

- a presentation by Professor Lars-Gunnar Andersson on the Language Situation in Botswana;
- a documentary by Laurens van der Post from Tsodilo Hills in 1958;
- a documentary by Mats Ögren/Per Järtby, from Tsodilo Hills in 2009;

### **4 BOTSFA's Newsletter – DUMELA Newsletter**

Two issues of Dumela Newsletter were produced during 2009. The Publishing Agent, Viera Larsson, assists BOTSFA on a voluntary basis and also guides the design of the website.

### **5 BOTSFA website [www.botsfa.nu](http://www.botsfa.nu)**

BOTSFA "recruited" a new Web-master, Per Järtby, who updates the website on a voluntary basis. The website has gone through a facelift and has been considerably updated. New items of note are: "Dumela Magazine" with reports, stories, etc.; "Latest News" on the front page, "News/Information", the "Calendar" page, and more.

**6 Supported Projects in or related to Botswana.** The Executive Committee decided to support Neo Chitombo in 2009. Neo is running "Bright Faces Daycare" centre in Kumakwane (some 15 kilometers outside of Gaborone) and has received gifts worth SEK 1000 for the graduation of 11 children in November 2009. The Executive Committee has decided to provide Neo with further assistance in support of the development of the daycare centre; and/or her studies to become a professional daycare teacher. BOTSFA awaits a proposal from Neo detailing the project plans for a decision to be made on the level of financial support to provide the project.

### **7 Other activities:**

**7.1** During 2009 BOTSFA continuously worked on broadening contacts

between Botswana and Sweden, and among Batswana living/working in Sweden. The association also responded to a number of inquiries regarding visits to Botswana by Swedish tourists and, students with Minor Field Studies grants (stipendium) for studies in Botswana. A new Association has been formed, BATISWE (Batswana in Sweden), which is being supported by the Embassy of Botswana, and BOTSFA.

**7.2** BOTSFA Board discussed the possibility of approaching the other associations, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, for the formation of a regional association.

**8 Events.** Birgitta Karlström Dorph, Member of the Executive Committee, has given presentations on Botswana at a couple of occasions; at a meeting in Lund with "SAFRAN" (Södra Afrikaföreningen i Skåne) and with "FUF" (Föreningen för Utvecklingsfrågor).

Members of the Executive Committee attended: the launching of Mma Ramotswé's Cookbook, in Edinburgh; A Tourism Promotion Seminar arranged in Stockholm by the

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Embassy of Botswana; the “SWHAP” conference (Swedish Workplace HIV/AIDS Program) in Stockholm.

### **9 Membership and Financial position**

**9.1 BOTSFA’s membership.** By the end of 2009 BOTSFA had 104 paid-up members and two organizations.

**9.2 Finances.** The Association’s financial assets at the end of the year 2009 were SEK 22 044.

Stockholm, February 2010

Ulla Odqvist  
Chairperson

Ulla Beckman

Seboleleng Bertilsson

Birgitta Karlström Dorph

Julia Majaha Järtby

Folke Löfgren

Anne Murray

Pretty Phologolo

Rasmus Rasmusson

Mats Ögren Wanger