

DUMELA



Newsletter from Botswana Sweden Friendship Association No 3/2016

Dear BOTSFA members

WHAT A PRODUCTIVE YEAR 2016 turned out to be!

Preparations for the trip to Botswana for the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of Independence kept Anders Hjertstrand (also Treasurer for BOTSFA) and his committee extremely busy. The editorial team working with the preparations for the release of the book, Botswana–Sweden 50 years of partnership 1966–2016, had to burn the candle at both ends to meet the production deadlines.

Forty-seven members of BOTSFA travelled to Botswana and some of the members who stayed behind in Sweden were treated to a memorable celebration hosted by the Botswana Embassy at Frösunda Port in Solna. The book did not only turn out to be beautiful, it was released through two big launches in Stockholm and Gaborone. The launches were generously hosted by the Embassy of Botswana, Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs, BOTSFA and the Embassy for Sweden from Pretoria.

Following the introduction of a very informative column to capture issues of interest from Botswana, Sweden's Honorary Consul Kent Nilsson has kept Dumela readers well-updated. Dumela is very thankful to Consul Nilsson for the exceptional support to the newsletter and generous contributions to BOTSFA's activities!

In this issue of Dumela, Mats Ögren Wanger treats us to an article on his visit to Botswana as part of the 47 strong-person group that travelled to celebrate 50 years of Botswana's peaceful prosperity.

Dumela and BOTSFA wish Botswana a Happy New Year and many more years of peace and prosperity!



Julia Majaba-Järby



PHOTO Per Järby

Welcome to BOTSFA!

MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Individual: SEK 175
- Family: SEK 300 (incl. children up to 15)
- Student: SEK 100
- Institution: SEK 500

Plusgiro 85 10 39-8, or Bankgiro 428-6472

For an update of records, please send an e-mail to AndersHj@botsfa.nu if you have changed contact details or are paying as a new member.

visit us on www.botsfa.nu

THE GLORIOUS INDEPENDENCE DAY

TEXT and PHOTO Mats Ögren Wanger

Independence

The Botswana 50 years independence celebration days were all painted in blue, black and white. These golden party days were truly unforgettable in many ways.

The official program included 5 days of celebrations between 25–30 September and the center of it all took place at the newly renovated National Stadium in Gaborone.

The FIRST celebration party – from book fair to book launch

Soon after leaving the book fair in Gothenburg, I touched ground at Sir Seretse Khama Airport and stepped right into our own Swedish celebration party of the 50 years independence at the @Linnaeus venue, Sanitas Nursery & Tea Garden.

The party, organised to launch the book »Botswana – Sweden 50 years of partnership 1966–2016«, was hosted by the Embassy of Sweden from Pretoria and BOTSFA. New and old friends of Botswana and Sweden gathered for the launch of the book and were entertained to a beautiful photo exhibition from a contest sponsored by the Embassy, entitled »Skills by Botswana«.

Cecilia Julin – Ambassador Designate for the Embassy of Sweden – said the »Skills by Botswana« exhibition received 348 photographs which were an interpretation of skills by Botswana by those that took the pictures. She said they chose skills because Botswana and Sweden have always had collaborations that are based on promoting skills development through extensive development cooperation.

Among the guests were many dignitaries like ministers, ambassadors and even former president Festus G. Mogae. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ponomi Venson-Moitoi, expressed, in a speech, her appreciation for the efforts of the BOTSFA members who had worked tirelessly in producing a book that documents cooperation between Botswana and Sweden over

the past five decades. »Had it not been for the benevolence of selfless friends like you, the Swedish government, and the generosity of other development partners, we would certainly not have achieved the current level of economic development and social progress«, she said.

After those touching words, BOTSFA chairperson, Julia Majaha-Järtby, introduced the book and handed it over as a gift to her former classmate from Swaneng Hill School, foreign minister Ponomi Venson-Moitoi and Sweden's Ambassador Designate, Cecilia Julin.

The SECOND celebration party – The United Kingdom film premiere

If you were gonna meet two former presidents and a current one and watch a film about the current president's father and mother, Sir Seretse Khama and Ruth Khama, it would be at the gala premiere of the film »A United Kingdom« at River Walk in Gaborone. Naturally the dress code was a tuxedo. I decided to be part of the rare occasion. The new film about the marriage between Seretse and Ruth Khama left few untouched.

The THIRD celebration party – the Independence Eve

For some people, like Mr Mattias Nilsson (owner of Sanitas), the eve of the big day started before sunrise, with final rehearsals in white colonial uniform for the Botswana 50th independence handover parade – let alone to mention the disaster that almost befell Mattias Nilsson when he forgot his fancy white and red Bechuanaland parade hat on the car roof on his way home!

The official Independence Eve offered a never-before-seen firework at National stadium. And, at Sanitas, Mr Kent Nilsson, Sweden's Consul to Botswana, hosted a dinner party for all the guests from Sweden. The 29th of





PHOTO Per Järby

September was also their mother's, Mrs Siglinde Nilsson's, birthday. As a token of appreciation for the warm welcome, the visitors from Sweden handed over small gifts in Ikea bags. There included »Kalles kaviar, sill, hårtbröd, brännvin« and other Swedish delicatessens.

The FOURTH celebration party – the Independence Day

Independence Day, the 50th Independence Day was boiling hot. Guests from around the world gathered at the National Stadium under a perfectly clear blue sky for the celebrations in Gaborone. It was a true celebration that ran throughout the country with official speeches, ceremonies, parades, street parties, concerts, and other festive events and activities. And if you were among the 22 000 who got a seat at the National Stadium, you could see and listen to President Ian Khama appealing to Botswana to continue to embrace the principles of democracy, unity, development and self-reliance as well as the culture of »botho« in their journey towards prosperity for all. PULA!



Dumelang dear Botsfa members!

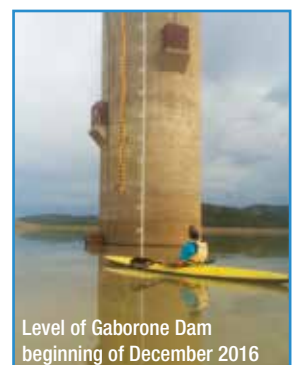
It was great seeing so many of you here during the independence celebrations in September! I think a noticeable statement was made by the sheer size of the Swedish delegation coming from Sweden taking part in the celebrations. All thanks to BOTSFA! Three former ambassadors and so many others that have taken an active part in the development of Botswana since independence were part of the visiting group. We all hope that Sweden will continue to stay involved through a progressive and productive development in Botswana. Botswana government pulled off a very good show with the celebrations. Everything flowed very smoothly and I think everybody was happy.

We are now all back in the daily grind again dealing with new challenges. The biggest news at the moment is the closure of BCL mine last month. More than 5000 employees lost their jobs directly and many more indirectly. This is of course will be a great challenge for the already tough situation in the region affected. Unemployment is becoming a big problem in Botswana, especially with so many new entrants on the job market every year.

The month of November brought us some welcomed rain and the bush quickly turned green again. The temperatures were »normal« for the season and the Gaborone dam even increased a few percent due to the rains. The level is now 15%. This all has brought a hopeful outlook for the season. December however has reminded us of the extreme weather we had last year with temperatures well above 40°C. I am an optimist though and think we will have a decent year with inflow into the dams in the south of the country.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, with family and friends.

Kent Nilsson
Swedish Honorary Consul



Level of Gaborone Dam beginning of December 2016



Cutting of the cake at the 50th Independence Anniversary celebration hosted by the Embassy of Botswana at Frösunda Port.



Glimpses from the Botswana 50 book launches from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Stockholm and Sanitas in Gaborone.



DO NOT MISS THE FILM

A UNITED KINGDOM which tells the inspiring true story of Seretse Khama, the King of Bechuanaland, and Ruth Williams, the London office worker he married in 1948 in the face of fierce opposition from their families and the British and South African governments. Seretse and Ruth defied family, Apartheid and empire – their love triumphed over every obstacle flung in their path and in so doing they transformed their nation and inspired the world.

BBC FILMS

IT IS TIME FOR THE ANNUAL BOTSFA PHOTO COMPETITION

All BOTSFA members are invited to submit 1-3 photos. The theme for the 2016 competition is »INDEPENDENCE«.

RULES:

- The picture(s) should have been taken by the member
- Prints, slides, scanned or digital images
- Closing date is 31 January 2017
- All entries may be printed in Dumela or shown on BOTSFA's web site

Images may be sent electronically to per@jartby.com or by mail to: Per Järtby, Olof Skötkonungs väg 25, 193 32 Sigtuna, Sweden

The pictures will be anonymously judged by a jury to be constituted.

GOOD LUCK!



The Board of BOTSFA wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017!

PUBLISHER: Julia Majaha-Järtby • Olof Skötkonungs väg 25, 193 32 Sigtuna • TEL +46 (0)73 842 74 22 • E-MAIL julia@botsfa.nu

PUBLISHING AGENT: Viera Larsson | Visual Communication AB • WEBMASTER: Per Järtby • EDITOR: Julia Majaha-Järtby

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES: Anders Hjertstrand • Skyttevägen 41, 133 36 Saltsjöbaden • TEL 073-707 60 31 • E-MAIL andersHj@botsfa.nu

Information, articles, etc., to be included in DUMELA should be sent to the publisher's address.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Individual: SEK 175 • Family SEK: 300 • Student: SEK 100 • Institution: SEK 500 • Plusgiro Account: 851039-8 • Bankgiro Account: 428-6472