

# DUMELA



Newsletter from Botswana Sweden Friendship Association No 1/2019

## Dear BOTSFA members

Let me take this time to thank everyone of you for making our 2019 Annual General Meeting on March 23, 2019, in Bromma, Stockholm, a success. It was attended by 50 participants, including new and younger members. It is also my great pleasure, as BOTSFA Chairperson, to inform you that among us was the new Botswana Ambassador to Sweden, H.E. Ms. Chandapiwa Nteta, together with most of the Embassy staff. Your Excellency, you are warmly welcome to BOTSFA! We are looking forward to continue enjoying working with the Embassy under your leadership.

This issue of Dumela Newsletter features:

- Speech by BOTSFA member Sten Rylander welcoming Botswana's new Ambassador to Sweden, H.E. Ms. Chandapiwa Nteta, at the 2019 AGM.

- Updates from Botswana by the Swedish Honorary Consul, Kent Nilsson.
- An article on »Ageing in Botswana« by Julia Majaha-Jartby who recently spent time in Botswana to care for her aged mother.

For now, let us start preparing ourselves for BOTSFA's get-together trip to Gotland, scheduled for October 4–6. Gotland is a great place!

Finally I humbly remind/encourage you, good members, to renew your 2019 membership fee, and for guests at the AGM to join the Association. BOTSFA is an Association where friendship matters.

Enjoy the Spring! The green leaves are out, the birds are singing, and the Swedish people are seen basking in the sun, whenever they can.

May BOTSFA continue to grow from strength to strength.

Nelly Kabomo-Hogård  
BOTSFA  
Chairperson



BOTSFA Chairperson, Nelly Kabomo-Hogård visited Bright Faces Daycare Centre in November 2018.

### Welcome to BOTSFA!

#### MEMBERSHIP FEES

• Individual: SEK 175 • Family: SEK 300 (incl. children up to 15) • Student: SEK 100 • Institution: SEK 500  
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visit us on [www.botsfa.nu](http://www.botsfa.nu)

# WELCOME! – BOTSWANA'S NEW AMBASSADOR

TEXT BY Sten Rylander



## Welcome speech by Sten Rylander at BOTSFA's AGM, 23 March 2019:

Your Excellency Mme Chandapiwa Nteta,  
Dear Members of the Botswana-Sweden  
Friendship Association (BOTSFA).

I have been entrusted with the honourable task of formally welcoming you on behalf of BOTSFA. I am one of many veterans or oldtimers who have precious experiences from interacting with Botswana. I have served for some years as a member and Vice Chairman of the Board of BOTSFA. My own direct experience goes back to the late 1970's when I started to work in Botswana as the Country Director for SIDA.

Your Excellency,

You have been here only a short period of time, settling in as Botswana's new Ambassador in Sweden. But I think you realize already now – after briefings in your country and by your predecessor Ambassador Lameck Nthekela – that your mission here is and will be a very special one, surrounded by so many positive connotations.

I would like to mention two reasons behind this positiveness:

The first is about your own achievements and making as a country and nation. Botswana is a success story in so many ways. To a large extent I think it is due to a very solid leadership over the years: Sir Seretse Khama, Quett Masire, Festus Mogae, Ian Khama – and right now Mokgweetsi Masisi, whom we do not yet know so well but we hope he will soon come to Sweden for a visit.

You also had a number of characteristics from the outset of nation-building: excellent development planning, partnership, ownership, transparency, good management and democracy (in a double sense including the kgotla system); features that other African countries started to focus on at a much later stage. The first group of Permanent Secretar-



H.E. Ambassador Ms. Chandapiwa Nteta receiving credentials from King Carl XVI Gustaf on 20th February, 2019.

ies were very important in setting this progressive scene: Baledzi Gaolathe, Ken Matambo, Sam Mpuchane, Lebang Mpotokwane and many others.

Let me also mention Botswana's role in promoting regional cooperation through SADC, which is based in Gaborone. You always stood up firmly in defending SADC's principles during difficult times, not least in Zimbabwe. I remember from my time as Ambassador in Zimbabwe that Ian Khama became a hero for many Zimbabweans.

The second reason relates to BOTSFA – a valuable resource in the work lying ahead of you. I know of no such friendship association with African countries which is as broad, alive and kicking as BOTSFA; full of heavily engaged and deeply committed members. We showed our strength around the 50th Anniversary in 2016, sending not less than 50 proud members to take part in the celebrations, as well as publishing an excellent coffee table book documenting memories from our strong partnership and cooperation.

With these many words we wish you warmly welcome to Sweden and good luck during your mission. You can count on BOTSFA in supporting your efforts!

# Ageing in Botswana – from extended family support to home based care

TEXT BY Julia Majaha-Jartby PHOTOS BY Per Järtby

**M**y mother has been lately asking when her day will come. When she said that to me for the first time, I naively asked, »What day?« She never gave me an answer but, the more time I spent with her the better I understood what she was referring to. She simply wants to be relieved of the pain she is living with! At 92, her mind is as clear as a sunny day – but she has, for the past year required more help with most of what she needs to do. When the young say they wish they could live to be over 90, she looks at them with a stare that says, »Really!« An unknown person once said we should not regret to grow old, as it is a privilege denied to many. I add, if there is no unbearable pain ...

I recently spent six weeks in Botswana caring for my mother, a woman who brought up nine children and some grandchildren through hard work – like most women in Botswana. My mother, who I always saw as the pillar of the family and strong as a horse, looks frail and needs to be taken care of. The tables are turned when parents age. We care for them when they grow old, but they never cease to be the parent ... that is for as long as the mind is well and balanced.

Botswana has a system of homebased care that was initially introduced for the care of people diagnosed of HIV/AIDS. With hospitals filled with patients needing extraordinary care, it made sense to engage families in caring for their terminally-ill loved ones. Today the system extends to any patient who needs support with essentials for hygienic care in his/her home. In some cases, this is augmented by food rations from the social welfare offices in respective towns and villages.

My siblings and I decided to enrol our mother under the Masunga clinic's homebased care offices. We have taken

turns in caring for her in her home, with the primary responsibility falling on the shoulders of two of my sisters who live next door to her.

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Using a Swedish walker – rullator – in Masunga.

## Dumelang dear Botsfa members!

**A**fter a long, very hot and dry summer, autumn seems to be finally arriving. The last weeks of good rain, 60 mm at Sanitas and more elsewhere, have definitely helped to bring down the temperatures to »normal« again. A few weeks ago the Gaborone dam level was below 50 % but has now risen to above 65% and the Notwane River is still flowing (see photo). So really good news!

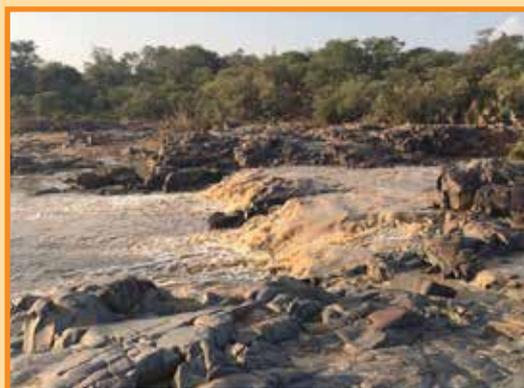
During the first weekend of April, the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) held their big party congress, this year in Kang. For the first time in the history of Botswana, a sitting president has been challenged to the post of party chairman during an election year. Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Ponomi Venson-Motoi, with the backing of former President Ian Khama, decided to challenge President Masisi. She represents the »New Jerusalem faction« of the BDP. However the weeks before the congress the support for this faction seemed to have dwindled. The day before the congress Ms Ponomi Venson-Motoi tried to stop the congress, or get it postponed through the courts. This however failed and during the first day of the congress she dropped out of the race, paving the way for President Masisi to be appointed party chairman. The elections will be held in October and today we see a political climate very different to the one we have been accustomed to during past five decades.

On another note, Statens Fastighetsverk (SFV) have decided to sell Sweden House, the old Embassy residence on President Drive. After the Embassy closed in 2008, Business Sweden has been using the building. During the years between 2008 and 2013 the »partner driven co-operation projects« co-ordinated partly by Business Sweden, kept Sweden House busy. The SFV budget however no longer permits the maintenance of the house and it has been decided to sell it. We are many who have very fond memories from this place.

As I'm sure all of you know, EU elections are happening in May. The Consulate will again facilitate voting for all Swedish citizens living in or visiting Botswana.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Easter. I'm heading to Chobe with the family.

*Kent Nilsson  
Swedish Honorary Consul*



# Glimpses from AGM 2019



Sten Stenbeck, Chairperson of the AGM and Nelly Kabomo Hogård, Chairperson of BOTSFA



Evelyn Forsman retired from the Borad



▲ Constance Sönnnergren, retired from the Board

◀ H.E. Ambassador Chandapiwa Nteta

▼ AGM participants



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She had been referred to Nyangabgwe Hospital in Francistown for the treatment of her old-age ailments. She did not want to leave her home and we had to oblige by providing the care she needs. This is supported by supplies of essentials for hygienic care from the clinic and painkiller prescriptions from the Masunga hospital. Her relatives and friends come to visit her in her home. She is also occasionally visited by volunteers within the village, trained under

the homebased care system. My mother appears happy and I am glad that I can spend time in Sweden, worried as I constantly am.

There are no old age homes in Botswana and the extended family system is slowly but surely disappearing. The homebased care system is a good addition/substitute to the traditional extended family support although, like many other systems in the country, it needs to be improved for efficient delivery.

**PRODUCTION** – Publishing Agents & Editors:

Julia Majaha-Jartby, TEL: +46 (0)73 842 74 22, E-MAIL: julia@jartby.com • Viera Larsson, Visual Communication AB, TEL: +46 (0)70 823 91 14, E-MAIL: viera.larsson@visual.se

**WEBMASTER:** Per Järtby

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