



2020 Annual General Meeting

**Welcome remarks by Chairperson Assistant Commissioner
Lethata Manne**

Venue: Masa Protea Hotel Gaborone

Date: 26th November 2020

Commissioner of Prisons
Retired Commissioners
Deputy Commissioners here present
Retired Deputy Commissioners
Heads of Divisions of Botswana Prison Service
CEO of Botswana Life
Representatives from Morepower Investments
Our GFS Relationship Manager
Representatives from African Alliance
Members of the BPOBS Executive Committee
Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me greet you all this morning in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is indeed an honour and privilege to be welcoming you this morning to this very important ceremony. We are meeting here today at the 2020 Botswana Prison Officers Burial Society Annual General Meeting. This year's meeting is a very different one as we have been forced by circumstances to hold it virtually. As you may be aware, we are now living in the **new normal** as dictated by the rampant COVID-19, and it forces us to change the way we have been doing things.

Distinguished delegates, we have other delegates joining us virtually from Tlokweng, Mahalapye, Francistown, Maun and Gantsi. As I stand here before you, I pray in my heart that technology would not disappoint us so that we have the programme running smoothly. Our colleagues from these different places will also have the opportunity to participate in the deliberations of the meeting as if they are here with us.

Director of ceremonies this year's AGM is the first one after the underwriting of our Society by BLIL. This was one of the major assignment given to my Committee immediately after being elected into office. Today we welcome our Relationship Manager from BLIL to brief us on how our scheme has been performing.

Distinguished Delegates the theme for this year's AGM is "***BPOBS transformation; a necessity to the members to achieve a better tomorrow***". As a Society, we need to work towards transforming our operations and I urge you all to take part in this process so that nobody is left behind. Amongst us we have guests whom we have invited to give us direction.

As I conclude ladies and Gentlemen, I urge all delegates to feel free to contribute during the day's deliberations. In Setswana there is a saying that; ***phuthologang bagaetsho, le mogae dintsa di bohile***. The success of this AGM depends on you. Your active involvement in and contribution to the discussions will be of vital importance in seeking effective and practical measures to help us move your Society forward.

In my capacity as the Chairperson of the Botswana Prison Officers Burial Society, and also on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Society, I would like to convey to all delegates in this AGM my heartfelt welcome.

To our Guests, you are most welcome, feel free, you are home.

May we all comply with the COVID-19 protocols during the entire AGM.