



Duncan D. Majinda-CEO, BAOA



Bopelokgale Soko-Director, Retirement Funds Dept, NBFIRA



Delegate, Q&A Time



Peter Hikhwa-Botswana Pensions Society Chairman



Resego Motlhokathari-Master of Ceremonies



Vincent Baituti-Head, Investor Services, Stanbic Bank



Lydia Magama-Manager, Taxpayer Education Unit, BURS, receiving a token of appreciation

## BOTSWANA PENSIONS SOCIETY'S TRUSTEE SEMINAR A SUCCESS

The Botswana Pensions Society (BPS), in partnership with Stanbic Bank Botswana Ltd, held its bi-annual trustee seminar in Gaborone where various industry regulators were invited to inform, update and educate the trustees about the new developments in this dynamic industry. BPS Chairman Peter Hikhwa said the seminar helped them to understand what the regulators expect them to do as players in the industry. Hikhwa said there are issues that the trustees may not understand hence BPS brought the regulators to clarify them. "We brought the regulators to interface with the fund boards so that they can hear from the horse's mouth. The industry is changing and there is need for the fund trustees to appreciate their role and give it the attention it requires," he said. Hikhwa said the pension fund trustees were not aware of the responsibilities of some of the new regulators, like Botswana Accountancy Oversight Authority (BAOA) and hence found it appropriate to invite them to explain their mission. The BPS Chairman also stated that the regulators were brought to explain new legislation in place so that the industry will be able to fully comply with them. The seminar was held under the theme; Regulation and Stanbic Bank was a partner in hosting the event. The BPS is grateful to Stanbic Bank for their decision to participate as well as sponsor the event. These information sharing events are fully funded by the BPS and thus, sponsorship and support such as this goes a long way towards helping the BPS make a lasting impact, and hence the BPS thanks the leadership of Stanbic Bank wholeheartedly. Speaking at the event the BAOA Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Duncan Majinda, called on the trustees to be selfless and protect the public

interest first. He said there is need for trustees to exercise good corporate governance and failure to do that, would lead to corporate failure or collapse. "The board is the driving force and therefore if the board is weak because it is not properly constituted or lacks the expertise then it is bound to come with substandard decisions," said Majinda. He added that trustees are required to comply with a code of corporate governance. BAOA is an independent oversight body of the accounting and auditing profession set up to regulate the reporting of financial matters of public interest entities and corporate sector. Non-Bank Financial Institute Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) Retirement Funds Department Director, Bopelokgale Soko, said the pension industry is growing in the country. She stated that assets in the pension industry are sitting at P75 billion and said the strategies used in 2008 in managing those assets should not be the same as today. "We need to structure our processes and make sure that our assets are managed in a way that will benefit the members. The Act says you should manage the funds first in terms of the Act and secondly in the best interest of the members," said Soko. Stanbic Bank, Investor Services Head, Vincent Baituti, took the occasion to unpack and explain what custodial services were to a fund. He said it is important for trustees to have a thorough understanding of what custodial service is. Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) Manager, Taxpayer Education Unit, Lydia Magama, started by explaining their mandate of collecting taxes in terms of the law. In her presentation she also took the occasion to outline the various types of Retirement Funds and their taxation. The Seminar ended with closing remarks from Karabo Matala, a BPS Committee Member.



Karabo Matala (BPS Committee Member), Nkosana Ndlovu (BPS Secretariat), Vincent Baituti (Stanbic Bank) and Delegates



Delegates



Delegates