

MEBALA

YOUTH STUDIOS

Newsletter Edition 3
March - June 2023

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Standard Chartered Bank Botswana CEO, Mr Mpho Masupe hosts Leadership Masterclass

Standard Chartered Bank Botswana CEO, Mr Mpho Masupe hosted a Leadership Masterclass at Mebala Youth Studios on the June 21st 2023.

Mr Masupe shared valuable insights about the importance of knowing yourself and staying true to the vision that motivates you. He emphasized the need to be strategic in setting goals according to your values and cultivating the necessary discipline and technical competency required to excel in your chosen field. We spoke at length about the impact and importance of mentorship, and the benefits for both the mentees and for their more experienced counterparts.

A definite highlight of the day was the 'Fish Bowl' discussion where attendees had the opportunity to come up to the open chair, ask questions and have a direct conversation with Mr Masupe. It was an inspiring day filled with encouragement and support for our young Futuremakers. We are truly grateful to everyone who played a part in making this wonderful day possible. It means a lot for young people to receive this type of encouragement, and we look forward to more opportunities to learn from industry leaders.





MASTER YOUR BRAND

Two-part Brand and Marketing Masterclass with Standard Chartered Bank

On 31 March 2023 Mebala Youth Studios welcomed Otsile Marole, Brand and Marketing Manager at Standard Chartered Bank Botswana, and Mimi Modimakwane, Founder and Owner of Pink Ninja and Board Member at Mebala Youth Studios.

Many young businesses in Botswana struggle to really grasp the power of branding and marketing. This Masterclass session saw Otsile and Mimi talk through the importance of crafting your personal brand, understanding your product life-cycle, discerning when it is best to use paid media, and how to ensure your brand is vibrant across social platforms.

By the end of the session, attendees had gained a much deeper appreciation for the complexities of branding and how it relates to your marketing strategy for your business.



MEBALA GOES SOLAR!



Every day we are taking a purposeful step closer to the future we want to see; young people at the forefront of sustainable developments in Botswana!

In our next stride towards [#GreeningBotswana](#), Mebala Youth Studios received a Small Scale Fund from the [German Embassy Gaborone](#) to install solar panels at the Lady Masire Youth Centre. We were proud to host German Ambassador Margit Hellwig-Bötte and her colleague Annelene Bremer, Gaborone West Ward Counsellor Mankie Sekete and Ms Kamogelo Keadilwe, representatives from Ministry of Youth, Gender Sports and Culture, to sign the solar agreement and celebrate the upcoming developments.



With our natural abundance of sunshine, and this strong support towards sustainability we look forward to reaping the benefits of clean, green energy at our centre. The project is set to transform the center's energy consumption, thanks to the installation of a state of the art solar energy system. A team of eight exceptional Engineering students from New Era College were selected to play a pivotal role in this sustainable initiative.



The eight dedicated and passionate team of New Era College Engineering students are Moepeng Keboanye, Makombo Donald, Tumelo Pako, Ongadile Charity, Mokoka Glen Thabang, Berence Kebapetse Maggie, Emmanuel Moagaesi, and Kgotla Gaseitsewe, and form part of the solar installation team for this project. They have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in solar installation and learn more about renewable energy which is of paramount importance to the College. The Mebala Goes Green project serves as a powerful example of how educational institutions and community organizations can collaborate to drive positive change. By harnessing the enthusiasm and expertise of the New Era College students, Mebala Youth Center is taking significant steps towards reducing its environmental impact and embracing renewable energy sources. The Mebala Goes Green project will not only benefit the environment but also inspire others to explore alternative energy solutions.

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COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: YOUTH BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL IN UGANDA



In June 2023 representatives from Mebala Youth Studios travelled to Kampala, Uganda for the Standard Chartered Foundation Community of Practice in partnership with Youth Business International.

Delegates from around the world converged in Kampala to share and learn from one another, with a focus on Financial Health and Mental Well Being. Together, we work towards producing practical strategies and insights to foster a more inclusive and empowering entrepreneurial environment.



CREATIVE BORDERS INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Mebala Youth Studios was honoured to host an interactive dance workshop at the Centre in collaboration with Creative borders and Maru-a-Pula School. Four professional performing artists and teachers travelled to Botswana to facilitate various dance workshops with different organizations around Gaborone.

On Saturday 17th June we had an intimate session where we discussed our mutual love of creative expression and how dance can be used to empower young people. In particular, we are interested in exploring how movement and dance could be used as a tool to address high rates of gender based violence in Botswana.



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FUTUREMAKERS ALUMNI HOSTS SOUND AND EDITING MASTERCLASS

On the 22nd of March 2023 we hosted a Sound and Editing Masterclass for our aspiring podcasters, facilitated by our very own Futuremakers Start-Up Growth program alumni, Mr Maleho Makgothi.

As the Director of his own company called Pumi Sounds, Mr Makgothi joined us last year to learn how to grow and scale his business. His technical expertise in sound engineering made him the ideal facilitator to guide our podcasters in an intensive one day session.

The Masterclass covered an equipment overview, recording techniques, editing and mixing techniques, and a practical demonstration. Our podcasters got to get close to high end equipment and gain a better understanding of what will be required to produce a high quality podcast.



LOSS & DAMAGE WORKSHOP SERIES WITH BOTSWANA SOCIETY FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

On the 27 April 2023, we were invited to contribute to the Botswana Society for Human Development's Loss and Damage Workshop Series for farmers in Molepolole and surrounding areas. The workshop was mainly centered on Loss and Damage and the theme was Building Climate Resilient Farming Communities. Through Mebala Youth Studios we offered a Mental Health Awareness seminar that was focused on the effects of climate change on mental health in Botswana.

We want to equip the farmers with tools and skills to cope with their mental distress, and be in a position to support their community members who are experiencing mental distress. There is a lot of stigma that these isolated communities face and we tailored our seminar in a way that was focused on sensitizing them and encouraging them to seek mental health services.

Other stakeholders included as the Ministry of Agriculture, University of Botswana, Kaelo Training Institute and local leaders to name a few. It was held at the Molepolole Main Kgotla.

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SAFE SPACES SESSIONS



Help Against Harassment

As part of Mebala Youth Studios commitment to the Coalition Against GBV, we held our second Safe Space Session themed Help Against Harassment, on Saturday 20th May 2023. The session looked at all kinds of harassment including street and sexual harassment in the workplace, followed by a Legal Toolkit discussing the legal options available for someone dealing with being harassed.

Our guests were Ms Mimi Modimakwane and Ms Kutlo Tankiso Mphusu.

Mebala Youth Studios Board member Mimi Modimakwane is an author, activist, broadcaster and entrepreneur with over fourteen years-experience in the media and communications sector. She is the founder and Chief Ninja at Pink Ninja, an organization that promotes safety in life and healing in love for women and girls through sexual harassment (SH) training, SH corporate policy review and team building. She hosts the Pink Ninja Podcast, which answers complicated questions about relationships with family, colleagues, lovers, and friends, and owns the Pink Ninja online store, which retails self-defense kits for women and girls.

Kutlo Mphusu holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Rhodes University and an LLB from the University of Pretoria, and she is an Attorney admitted to practice in the High Courts of Botswana. Kutlo is currently the Managing Partner of Mphusu Attorneys. She has a diverse range of expertise and experience in various areas of the law, including but not limited to Family Law, Employment Law, Legal and Regulatory Compliance, Civil Litigation, Corporate and Commercial Law and Intellectual Property Law. Kutlo is passionate about advocacy for women, children, youth and under privileged people.



BOTSWANA LAUNCHES EDU PLUS

On June 20th 2023, Mebala Youth Studios was proud to be included at the launch of Edu Plus Botswana, a rights-based, gender responsive advocacy initiative concentrating on the socio-economic empowerment of adolescent girls and young women and the achievement of gender equality.

During a panel discussion about Socio-Economic empowerment moderated by Lillian Moremi, Mebala's Marketing Officer Neo Jasmine Mokgosi spoke about our holistic design for the empowerment of young people that addresses not only the individual, but also the environment around them. Other panel discussions involved Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and a highly stimulating Young Voices Discussion featuring young high school students who spoke passionately about the need for inclusion, particularly for disabled and LGBTQI+ students. This discussion cemented our focus and dedication to ensure no young person is left behind in our vision for an inclusive, sustainable and creative Botswana.

Officially launched by the First Lady Neo Jane Masisi, this initiative is a collaboration between the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, the Botswana (MESD), the National AIDS & Health Promotion Agency (NAHPHA), the Ministry of Health of Botswana (MoH) and the United Nations in Botswana (UNAIDS, UNICEF Botswana, UNFPA Botswana, UN Women, and UNESCO).



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Keep connected with us! If you have any questions, ideas, information or partnership proposals, please give us a shout!

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**SOCIAL
LINKS**

MASTERCLASS

<https://youtu.be/4aVXLdiwWmo>

**COMMUNITY OF
PRACTICE**

<https://youtu.be/fLRIRUvug10>

CREATIVE BORDERS

<https://youtu.be/1QAQCcBKw8o>