


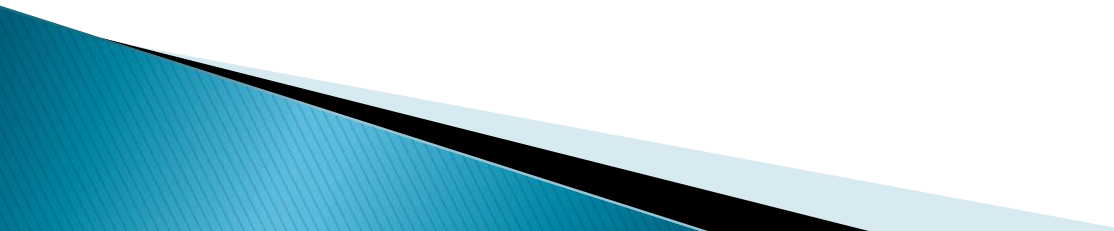
THEME: ACTIVE COUNSELING FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT; The State of Counseling in Botswana and Africa

Presenter: Esnaty B. Obetile
MED(CHS), University of Botswana
IAC-AAC Buenos Aires Conference 2017
April 20-23.

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Let me start by acknowledging all the dignitaries in the audience according their respective roles, protocol observed.
 - ▶ I would like to thank the reception of the host, Argentina Association for Counseling and the support of the government Ministries that made it possible for us to be here.
 - ▶ It would be erroneous for me to by-pass the CEO and the President for IAC all the effort to strive for an all encompassing nations conference.
 - ▶ Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.
- 

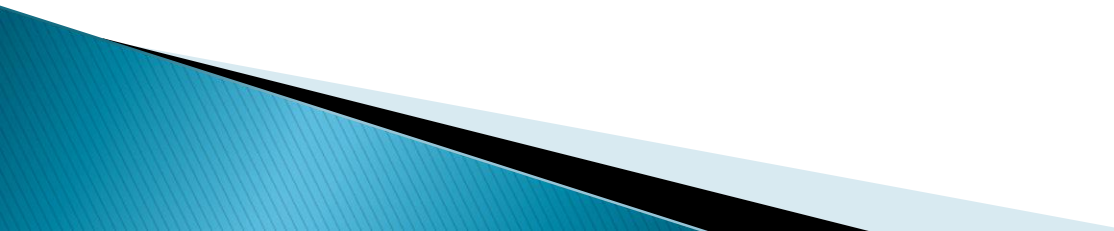
Brief of the Presentation

- ▶ The presentation shall briefly discuss counselling activities in Africa
 - ▶ Botswana as a country in Southern Africa counselling state shall be discussed independently not as a standard of all African states
 - ▶ Background review of the economic and social status of Botswana shall also be discussed to guide the preparations for future prospects of IAC–Africa Conference
- 

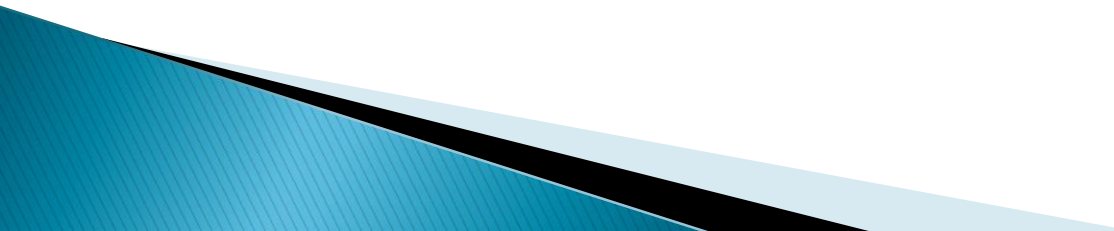
ESTABLISHMENT OF ASSOCIATIONS AND COUNCILS IN AFRICA

- ▶ Evidence of the existence of counselling in Africa could be traced back to 1959(Aluedo, 2000). Identified activities were career workshops and guidance activities that lead to the establishment of Nigerian Career Council that eventually materialized the **Counselling Association for Nigeria**
- ▶ Dr Wayne Mack led the inception of the **Association of Certified Biblical Counsellors (ACBC Africa)** in the 1970's. Its mandate is to facilitate quality biblical counselling in Africa by training and certifying competent biblical counsellors in local churches (Van Der Walt, 2015).

CONTINUE

- ▶ **African Association For Pastoral Studies and Counselling (AAPSC)** was established by African specialists in pastoral theology and counselling to contextualize their pastoral ministry in order to meet the needs of African Christians by trying to establish relations between culture, sociology, psychotherapy, psychiatry, religion, western theology and the emerging African theology
- 


Continue

- ▶ **Eastern and Southern Africa Counselling Association (ESACA)** exist to increase the quality and effectiveness of counselling in the region.
 - ▶ It promotes and facilitate networking, collaboration and consultancy amongst members through email linkages
 - ▶ It assists national associations to register as NGO and advertise their services
- 


- ▶ Guidance, Counselling and Youth Development Centre for Africa (GCYDCA) was established in 1994 to promote capacity building of teachers and trainers in guidance and counselling to foster behaviors and principles that are consistent with educational, social and cultural values of the region

African Association for Counsellors (AAC)

African Association for Counsellors held its ever first National Conference in Malawi, Lilongwe on 20–21st June 2014 with the support of GCYDCA and NBCC–International–USA.

- ▶ Exist to attend and support of psychosocial support and identification of professional counsellors to add substance to the counselling profession in Africa
 - ▶ Familiarize its members with new innovations in counseling
 - ▶ Capacity building
- 


African Association for Counsellors (AAC)

- ▶ Was established in 2013
 - ▶ Target group are counselors, health professionals, students, lecturers, psychologists, teachers, social welfare officers and other interested parties
 - ▶ Its main aim is to address the African social challenges
 - ▶ It is the mother body of counseling associations in Africa
 - ▶ It accredits and licenses counselors in Africa
 - ▶ It works collaboratively with NBCC–International(USA)
- 

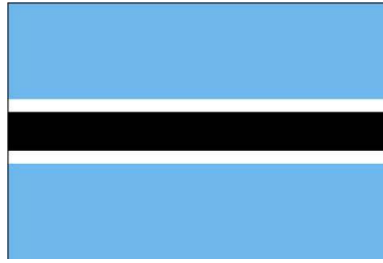
AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR COUNSELORS (AAC)

- ▶ Held its Second Conference 18–19th June 2015. the aim of the conference was to provide counselors with an opportunity to discuss and share practices in the field of counseling
- ▶ The theme of 2015 Conference was “Progression and Prospects of Counseling in Africa”.
- ▶ Contacts AAC: P O Box 30058, Lilongwe3, Malawi. Tel: +265(0)1–759–181–2 info@aac.org.
- ▶ <http://aac.ccyda.org/?p=226>

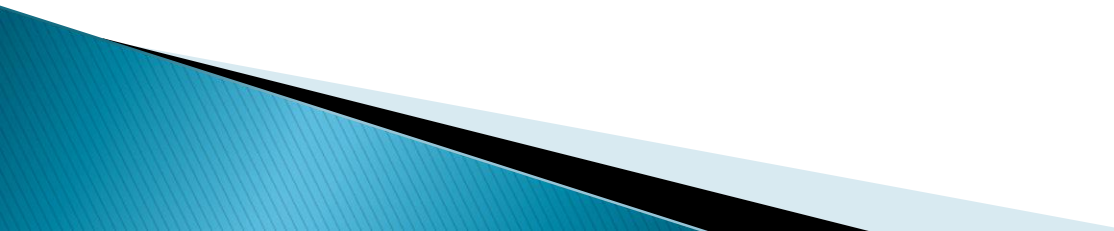
CONTINUE

- ▶ Council for Counsellors in South Africa was established to meet the urgent need for a professional body to regulate non-psychologist counsellors and to provide consistency in the standards across and within provinces in South Africa, and across different settings (2013)
 - ▶ Emphasis on the need for counselors to undergo basic education and training to qualify for recognition that aligns with current national health and social services priorities.
 - ▶ Offers training and certification to their members
- 

BOTSWANA



Brief Background

- ❖ Small landlocked country in Southern Africa
 - ❖ Population of about two million
 - ❖ Major income from diamonds and tourism
 - ❖ The World Bank Overview describes it as a fast growing middle income country of a GDP of about \$70 when it gained independence in 1966 but now it has a growth of 5% per annum due to the improved sale of diamonds
 - ❖ It has a consistent economic and political stability as attested by fair and free elections of its democracy
 - ❖ Has the Headquarters of Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- 

- ▶ Shortages of electricity and water supply had been challenging the manufacturing industries and agricultural projects. It is hopeful that the economy of Botswana is to rebound with a projected GDP growth rate of 3.7% in 2016 and 4.3% in 2017 due the diamonds sales and non-mining activities.

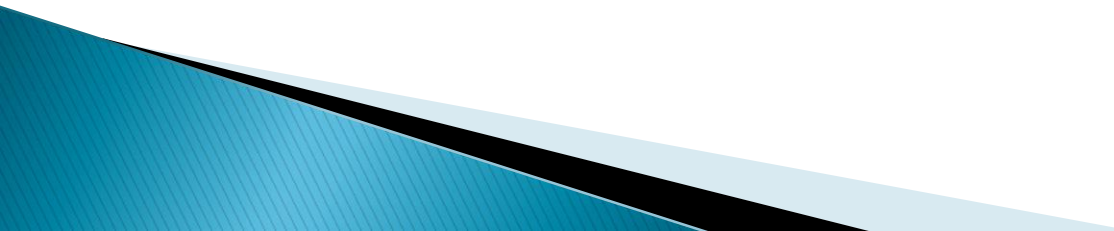
Jwaneng Diamond mine is one of the richest in the world

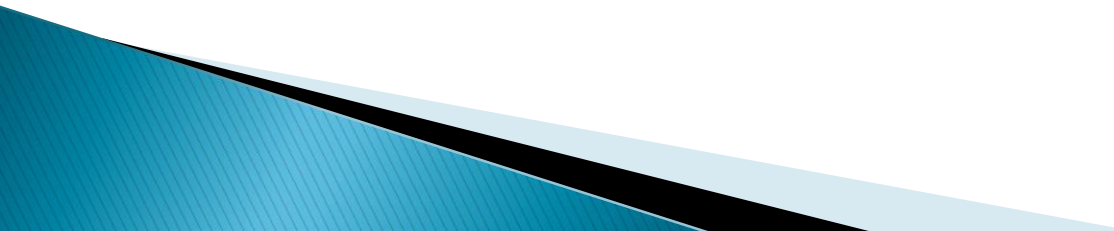


SADC Headquarters In Gaborone

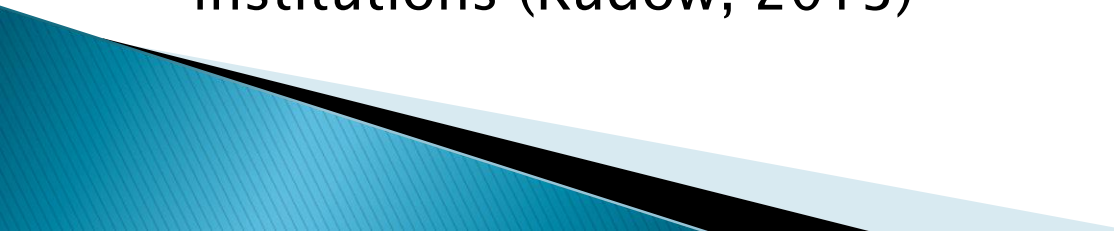


Counselling Activities in Botswana

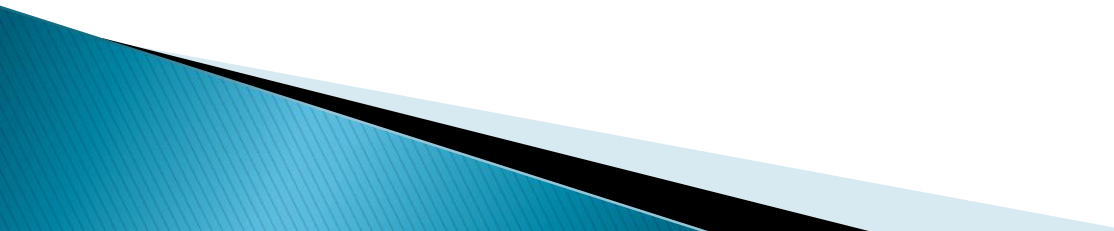
- ▶ Development of counselling started as a need for career guidance services for students in secondary schools in order to prepare them for career training at tertiary level, as far as 1963 before Botswana got independence from Britain.
 - ▶ It started with a workshop of a group of secondary teachers to train in career guidance.
 - ▶ In 1985 in-service training was done for teacher-counsellors in addition to their core subject and pre-service training in guidance and counselling.
- 

- ▶ In the early 1990's, a focus on mental health issues outside the education arose due to the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country
 - ▶ General counselling increasingly developed in other setting of government ministries and community agencies, NGO, prisons, churches, and private agencies.
 - ▶ There was a need for training the practitioners in all these settings. The University of Botswana (UB) started a program to train counselors for Master of Education in Counseling and Human Services around 2002.
- 

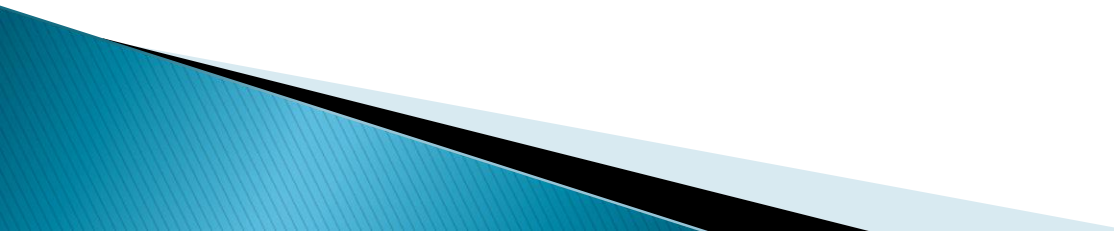
Continue

- ▶ Only individuals who could sponsor themselves managed to do this degree.
 - ▶ The Ministry of Education and Skills Development asked UB to start at a much affordable level of a bachelor degree to train teachers who would eventually train as professional counsellors
 - ▶ Currently there are three levels of counselors practicing in Botswana
 - ▶ There are paraprofessionals, and work as lay counselors who only hold a certificate or diploma in basic counseling skills and work as peer educators, HIV Coordinators, and pastoral counselors in churches and guidance teachers
 - ▶ The second group are professionals who have a Masters degree training and run their private practice
 - ▶ The last group are PhD holders who teach in tertiary institutions (Rudow, 2013)
- 

Development of Counselling

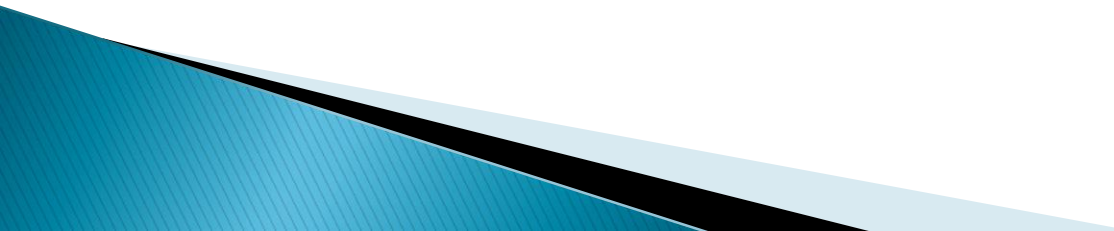
- ▶ One of the other Universities also started a bachelor degree that train in counselling
 - ▶ Eventually after the starting of counselling due to HIV and AIDS, some agencies started running workshops to issue certificates to trainees for counselling.
 - ▶ The development of counselling brought the inception of three counselling associations. Botswana Counselling Association (BCA) being one of these, was formally registered in October 31st, 2005 and officially launched in 2007 in order to establish a forum for counsellors to discuss ideas and development strategies for meeting challenges and divers needs of the country.
- 

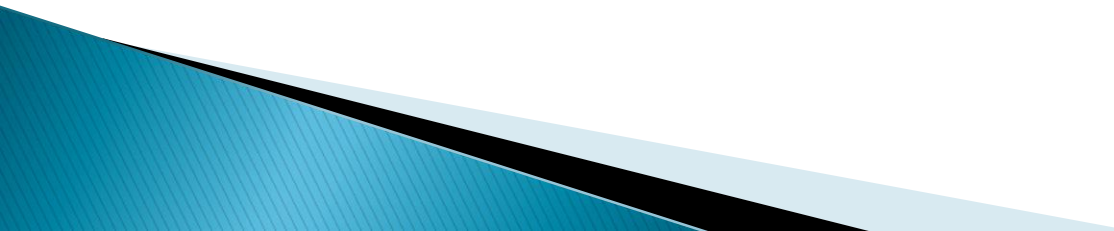
INDIGENOUS COUNSELING

- ▶ Traditional health practitioners are recognized for their valuable impact as counseling resource in their communities
 - ▶ Future prospects by the government are focused on developing their involvement in information dissemination and education, counseling, condom promotion, prevention during health care and research (WHO, February 10, 2017)
- 

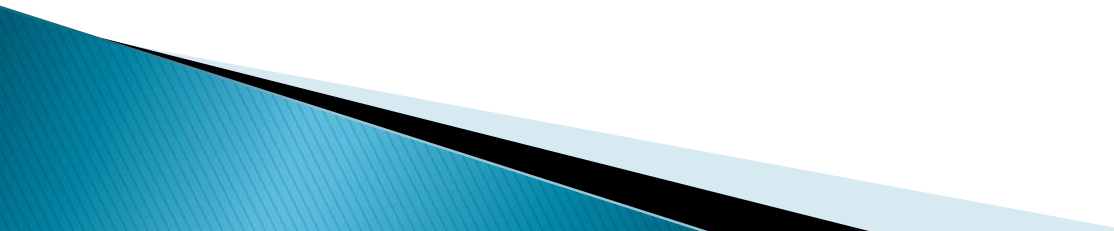
- ▶ BCA exist to promote and protect the interest of counselling , psychological and development services and monitor the delivery of these services in Botswana
 - ▶ Member of BCA are counsellors, clinical psychologists, and social workers.
 - ▶ It has held 2 international conferences, in 2012 and 2013.
- 

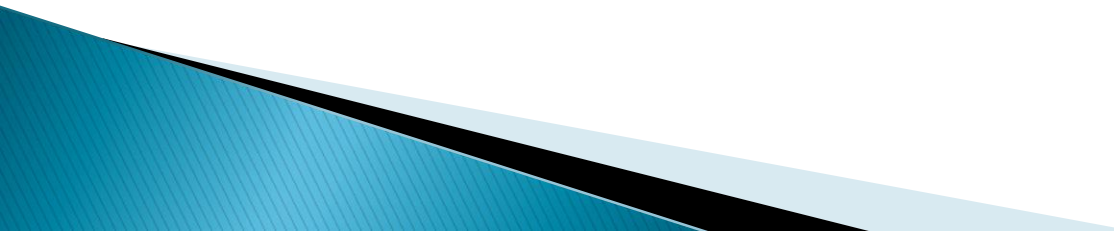
Contemporary Issues

- ❖ Income inequality
 - ❖ Unemployment
 - ❖ Teenage Pregnancy
 - ❖ Drug and Substance Abuse
 - ❖ Prostitution
 - ❖ Human trafficking
 - ❖ HIV and AIDS
 - ❖ Declining school academic results
 - ❖ Shortages of water and electricity
- 

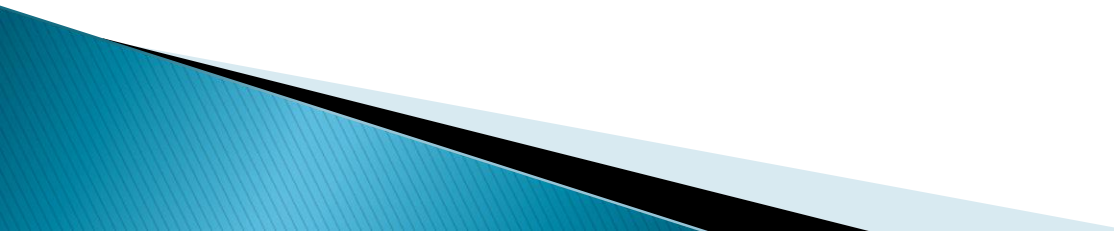
- ▶ Stigma and discrimination
 - ▶ Gender issues
 - ▶ Moral decay
 - ▶ High rates of divorce
 - ▶ Orphanhood
 - ▶ Intergenerational relationships
 - ▶ Addiction
 - ▶ Divorce
- 

Forecast for counselling in Botswana and Africa

- ▶ To establish structures and strategies for counselling and training which is multicultural in delivery
 - ▶ To develop standards of practice that are relevant and meet international standard
 - ▶ To participate in international counselling conferences in order to network and upscale relevance of counselling in the developing cultures
 - ▶ To encourage research and growth in psychosocial support
- 

- ▶ To address counselors' challenges in the region
 - ▶ To educate and involve governments in understanding counselling so as to address the contradictions with social work and psychology
 - ▶ To advocate for the tenacity of counselling as a profession by its own right without justification of other fields by counselors themselves
- 

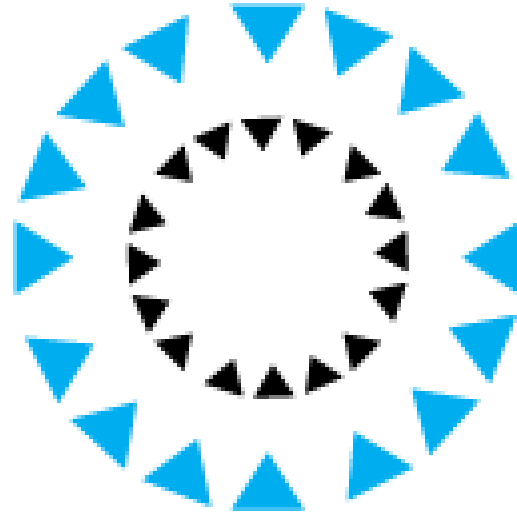
BCA

- ▶ There is need for BCA to connect with other bodies of counselling to network and benchmark standards of practice and activities for counselling
 - ▶ As a non profiting organization, BCA has to engage in strategies that could involve members for them to retain activities that fund the organization
- 

REFERENCES

- ▶ <http://www.c4csa.org/cpd/>
 - ▶ <http://www.gcydca.org/sited?>
 - ▶ http://www.sla5.org/wp_content/uploads/2015/07/ACBC.jpg
 - ▶ http://www.orgs.tigweb.org.eastern_and_southern_africa_counselling_esaca
 - ▶ https://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Botswana
 - ▶ <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/botswana/overview>
 - ▶ <http://www.our-africa.org/botswana>
- 

KEA LEBOGA. THANK YOU. GRAZI.
IL-GURNATA T-TAJBA



Proudly Botswana