

Press Statement – For Immediate distribution

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BAC markets public sector products at East and Southern Africa Account Generals and Auditor Generals Conference

OR

BAC participates in East and Southern Africa Account Generals and Auditor Generals Conference

GABORONE – Monday 25th February 2013 saw the commencing of a weeklong East and Southern Africa Account Generals and Auditor Generals Conference (ESAAG) at Gaborone International Conference Centre (GICC). Botswana Accountancy College (BAC) participated in the conference, as one of the sponsors and key stakeholders. The college positioned itself as a potential partner in ESSAG's key area of interest being skills capacity building. The College has already set its sights in the regional presence to position its offerings. The 20th annual conference attracted 600 hundred delegates from the 14 member countries, namely: Botswana, Swaziland, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Each country hosts the conference on a rotational basis.

In attendance were guests such as Honorable Kenneth O. Matambo - Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Mr. Schalk Human, Acting CEO: ESAAG, Ms. Emma Peloetletse - ESAAG incoming chairperson, AG Botswana and Mr. Michael Lesolle – Executive Director, Botswana Accountancy College. The conference is of particular interest to BAC as the college has already engaged with key decision makers in the public sector skills development domain. The BAC institutional skills base and range of quality programmes presents opportunities for it to deepen the relationship. It is a relationship that must be extended and exported regionally.

Said Ms. Emma Peloetletse, "I am confident that this Conference will provide a platform for exchange of ideas and strengthening of public audit practices in the Southern African Region. The theme, 'Modern Public Financial Management Systems – an exploration of characteristics' is the most apposite theme taking into consideration the need to be abreast and remain innovative even in our accounting and auditing standards and procedures."

The ESAAG conference aims to provide a forum for Public Finance Management (PFM) professionals from different countries and organizations with an opportunity to explore and discuss issues related to public finance management. This year, the conference focused on Accounting Standards, Chart of Accounts, Transparency in financial reporting, Leadership and Management, Accountancy Oversight and Anti-corruption. In addition, the forum discussed PFM reforms, from diagnostics to implementation.

Said Mr. Michael Lesolle, "Creating Synergies for Capacity Building and Skills Development in Financial Reporting will guarantee the development of a comprehensive and integrated approach to the development of skills in financial reporting for the public sector. Such an approach will enable member countries to successfully implement internationally recognized corporate reporting

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standards and codes. It will also potentially provide opportunities for a common approach to structural challenges that cut across the region as a whole.

Concluded Mr. Schalk Human, "As we come to the end of our prolific convention, having been honoured with presenters from various development partner organisations, it was a conversant exchanges of ideas and moving forward we will prosper till we convene next year." We thank The World Bank, European Union, International Monetary Fund, International Federation of Accountants, Pan African Federation of Accountants (PAFA), Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants (CIPFA), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and others.

ENDS—

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