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Press Statement

To: All Media Houses

Date: 15/11/12

Please find a press statement for your information from BOTSWANA
ACCOUNTANCY COLLEGE

For any queries on this statement or anything else in relation to this statement
please contact the undersigned.

Thanking you in advance.

Kind regards,

Shathi Phumaphi

Public Relations Practitioner

Directors: Kabelo N Binns* (MD), Andre Wagner (Non Exec)***, Rob Vinnen* (Non Exec)

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BAC discusses Climate change at Tourism Seminar 2012

OR

BAC Holds Inaugural Tourism Seminar

GABORONE – Thursday 15th November 2012 saw Botswana Accountancy College (BAC) hold its inaugural Annual Tourism Seminar. The seminar, the first in what will become an annual event hosted by BAC in Gaborone, saw attendees discuss the seminar's key theme: Tourism and Climate Change.

Commented the Executive Director of BAC Mr. Michael Lesolle, "The Botswana Government has identified Tourism as a critical skill area in the economy. We are witnessing the dawn of a continually booming era in our tourism sector. In fact, it is with gratification that I can say tourism is the second greatest contributor to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP); however, it faces a serious threat from climate change, and this is something that cannot go unnoticed."

The seminar served to address issues such as how the industry activities affects climate change, to identify strategies for mitigating impacts of climate change and to provide a platform for the students to have an understanding of the implications of tourism and climate change. Ultimately, it aimed to encourage greater open thinking and consideration of the issue of climate change and its impact on tourism, a topic already in the minds of many following recent discussions across the board on climate change's effect on agriculture, as at the 2012 National Agriculture Show. Mr. Lesolle emphasised the importance of providing tourism students with the relevant skills to have a greater appreciation for and understanding of the matter, factors which the BAC Tourism course further explores.

Said Mr Richard Malesu of The National Tourism's Office, a panellist speaking at the seminar, "We are equipping our youth to ensure they preserve our tourism sector to ensure our tourism industry and environments that accommodate the industry remain notable and sustainable. It is important that the Industry take steps to mitigate impacts of their operations on the climate. I have no doubt in my mind that the development of a niche in the business education field in tourism management at BAC will be a contributory factor to ensuring we tackle the challenges that come with this concern."

The seminar brought together BAC students and staff, as well as industry players from across the board. Speakers included XXXXXXXXXX, XXXXXXXXXX, and XXXXXXXXXX.

"Such a forum is quite unprecedented in Botswana and it is my hope that this seminar will serve to encourage others in the tourism industry, as well as various sister industries, to take greater interest and action in the matter. We are excited to be behind such a programme and look forward to seeing it make an effectual difference," concluded BAC Executive Director, Mr. Michael Lesolle.

ENDS—

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