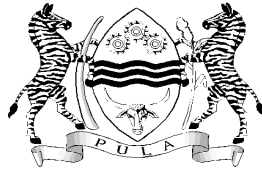


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REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

PRIVATE BAG 005

GABORONE

BOTSWANA

PRESS RELEASE

The Ministry of Education and Skills Development through the Education Hub office has introduced a Top Achievers Scholarship Programme with effect from the 2010/11 Financial Year.

The scholarships are intended for a select number of students with outstanding academic performance to pursue careers that are of strategic importance in terms of driving the economic diversification agenda of Botswana. The fields of study for the scholarship include Finance, Business, Engineering, Medical Health, ICT and Science. Initially the focus will be on undergraduate level but over time the scholarship will cover post graduate training in key areas. This initiative is aimed at motivating young people to excel in their studies, gain recognition, learn at the best environments to realise their potential, and create a pool of exceptional leaders for the country over time.

For the 2010/11 financial year, nineteen (19) exceptional performers with a minimum of 6A* from the 2009 BGCSE, IGCSE and HIGCSE results have been selected and will be placed at World Class institutions, depending on admissions.

Aspiring young people aiming to be considered for the 2011/12 Top Achievers Scholarship are encouraged to prepare themselves by submitting applications to top international institutions on time, sitting for tests such as TOEFL and SAT on time and aiming for the perfect score in examinations. Consistent good continuous assessments, demonstration of leadership qualities, engagement in community service, extra curricula activities such as sports and music for a well rounded individual are key considerations in the awarding of the Top Achievers' Scholarship.

A Top Achievers' Scholarship Committee consisting of representatives from the Engineers Association of Botswana, International Financial Services Centre, Medical Council, Botswana Chamber of Mines, DEBSWANA, Ministry of Transport and Communications, and Ministry of Education and Skills Development is responsible for overseeing the scholarship program and advising the Ministry in terms of the type of scholarship, tenure, criteria for selection, among others. It co-opts relevant experts as and when required.