



BOTSWANA OIL
Your Fuel. Your Future

Botswana Oil CEE Programme empowers locals



Last week Botswana Oil Limited (BOL) was amongst exhibitors at the 29th edition of the Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair in Francistown, where a team of enthusiastic experts engaged with stakeholders and members of the public to teach them about their Citizen Economic Empowerment Programme (CEEP).

The annual trade fair, hosted under the theme Driving Economic Diversification, Innovation for Sustainable Growth, was officially opened by Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe. Botswana Oil Limited used the trade fair as an opportunity to educate the public about the parastatal's core mandate and opportunities that exist within the petroleum industry.

While at the trade fair, The Patriot on Sunday had an opportunity to sit down with BOL's Senior Manager Marketing and Communications, Mpho Mokgosi who gave an insight on BOL's continued commitment to facilitating citizen participation in the petroleum sector through the CEEP and how it has helped enable a number of citizens owned companies who are progressing well. The program is aimed at strengthening citizen inclusion in the oil and gas value chain, through initiatives aimed at ensuring meaningful participation to facilitate development, growth and sustainability of citizen entities in the economy.

Mokgosi highlighted an important milestone worth celebrating for citizen participation in the transportation sector within the petroleum industry; ten years ago BOL started off with only 20 trucks owned by citizen transporters, and through BOL's support and capacity building, today BOL boasts of 130 trucks owned by citizen transporters in the industry. She further explained that another initiative through the program is BOL engaging financial institutions to guide them on how they can facilitate funding for citizens who wish to penetrate the petroleum value chain by giving them guidelines on security, what is viable within the market in order to understand the requirements as well as the capital required to invest.

Another pivotal achievement for the books that was done through the CEEP initiative was, after BOL secured a partnership to supply Debswana, citizen owned companies were brought on board to supply and BOL facilitated their Sasol accreditation process for transporters; a rigorous and thorough process that looks into adherence to quality standards of the petroleum industry.

"We are proud to say four of the transporters qualified and it is quite a key milestone for these transporters. Some of these transporters started off with BOL with only four trucks, now they have over ten trucks. It is quite a commendable initiative. This is a growing industry and we are hoping that as we continue to engage with Batswana, they understand how they can participate in the value chain and realize that transportation is not the only beneficiation that they can benefit from," Mokgosi emphasized.

The much celebrated citizen economic empowerment initiative was implemented to promote fair competition and equal access to opportunities and resources in the industry, to provide direction for development of programs aimed at financial and entrepreneurship skills capacity building for citizen owned companies to attract increased investment in the industry as well as to promote compliance to industry best practices and statutory requirements by citizen owned companies through effective communication of relevant policies, standards, industry trends and changes. Apart from the transportation of petroleum products, other areas that citizens can venture into within the petroleum industry include infrastructure development, infrastructure management, services and maintenance as well as other supporting services.

Touching on the Business Botswana Northern Trade Fair theme, Mokgosi noted that the energy sector is currently going through an energy transition where a lot of emphasis is placed on sustainability, and as part of the national energy policy, Botswana Oil Limited is looking into renewable energies and through their engagements with strategic partners, BOL intends to start importing biofuels in the near future, which are deemed cleaner fuels that will reduce the carbon footprint.

In addition, BOL is in the process to develop a multi petrol chemical industry that will look into conversion of coal to liquid and related by products within that value chain. This is a mega project which will be done through public private partnerships, and will in turn help create employment that can contribute towards revenue generation for the country and also develop a sustainable diverse economy.

"We believe Botswana Oil's coal to liquid project will be one of the biggest contributors to the Botswana economy in terms of revenue generation. We significantly contribute to the GDP of the country. As Botswana Oil that is how we align ourselves with this year's theme," she noted.



Botswana Oil Limited



www.botswanaoil.co.bw