



Newsletter



Poly students in Switzerland



From left : Ndapwa Kwedhi and Ilona Shikongo, 4th year Economics Student taking some time off to enjoy some ice-cream in Zurich

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PESS executives welcomes you all!

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• Economic Students' experience in Switzerland	5-7	Through different activities, the society aims to achieve the following interrelated objectives:
• Meet the 2013 PESS Executives	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Promote interest, when it comes to domestic and international economic issues among students. ◆ Exchange of economic ideas by providing public lectures, discussions and excursions related to economic and business issues. ◆ Provide information on financial assistance to support the needy students. ◆ Broadcast helpful information and provide interested students with activities including meetings and forum to contribute to the advancement of economic science.
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(Turn over)

PESS executives welcomes you all! Continues

- ◆ Create relationships with companies for appropriate job attachments for the members.
- ◆ Provide information on different career opportunities in the economics field.
- ◆ Offer a support system, which enhances the curriculum of Polytechnic's education, with the intention of better preparations of our members for the many challenges that lie ahead in the real world.

Membership!

The society is open to all economics student of the Polytechnic of Namibia. There are two different kinds of memberships namely:

Paid up members: Paid up members are affiliated to the society and pay a membership fee of N\$ 80 per year. This fee is used to cover the societies administration cost and partly pay for other expenses incurred by the society. As a paid up member, the members benefit from the societies activities and receive a free t-shirt for being a paid up member.

Non-paid up member: Non-paid up members are students that do not pay for membership but are welcome to attend any public lectures or activities of the society. These members, however, do not enjoy the full benefits arising from membership.

Funding

Since 2009, the Bank of Namibia has been the main sponsor of the society in all its activities. This includes assistance with public lectures, printing of the PESS Newsletter, contributing articles for the newsletter and printing of t-shirts amongst others.

Apart from sponsorship from the Bank of Namibia, the society conducts other fundraising activities.

We do hope that this issue and other forthcoming PESS Newsletters will continue to broaden your minds, when it comes to issues relating to our society, especially socio-economic issues.

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Like us on face book @Poly Economics Students Society

PESS Executives Members visits the Bank of Namibia

On Thursday the 7th of March 2013, the Polytechnic Economics Students Society Executives (PESS) paid a courtesy call on the Bank of Namibia (BoN). The main purpose of the meeting was to introduce the new PESS executives to the management team of BoN and for the PESS to express their gratitude to BoN as their main sponsor. Indeed, BoN has been the main sponsor of the PESS for the past 10 years.

Present at the meeting on behalf of BoN were Mr. Frans Amakali, Mr. Mali Likukela and Mr. Charles Matengu. Representing PESS were Mr. Eslon Ngeendepi (PESS-Coordinator), PESS President Ms. Lovisa Ndatewapo, Vice-president Ms. Miina Shakela and the rest of the executive committee members.

The BoN encouraged the PESS executive team to engage them on a regular basis, to make use of BoN resources such as the library, encourage students to conduct research, do collaborative public presentation sessions, as well as projecting the image of BoN in positive light through the various PESS activities. BoN also reaffirmed its continued financial commitment towards PESS.

At the end of the meeting the PESS team was taken on a tour around the BoN resource centre and some informative materials were given to the team.

ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH

Access to finance has been recognised as one of the priority areas to be addressed in the five year national development plans (NDPs) and the Financial Sector Charter. The Background statistics to the Financial Sector Charter, shows that around fifty percent of the Namibian population are financially excluded of which the majority of the financially excluded are in rural areas. Limited reference is made to the significant number of poor rural female entrepreneurs and community projects that have no access to micro finance. Generally, formal financial institutions and micro financiers are less receptive and welcoming to this group. Often cited by these institutions are collateral requirements and repayment obligations. Poor rural female entrepreneurs on the other hand cites bureaucratic loan applications, lengthy disbursement procedures, the time and resources needed to visit the banks and discriminatory banking culture as barriers to access micro finance.

It is widely assumed that sustainable micro finance schemes will have a positive impact on community livelihood in leading to higher income that will help communities and women in particular to better perform their role as brokers of health and improving the nutritional and educational status of other household members. Women's self-confidence and status within the family as independent producers and providers and the communities creation of valuable cash resources for the household is advanced.

The plausibility of these assumptions is largely borne out by empirical evidence. One such example is the Grameen micro credit bank in rural Bangladesh, which gives small loans to poor rural women who have a far better repayment rate than the rich urban borrowers.



Bridget Dundee

Micro finance schemes such as these have been successful because they entail groups of women who take responsibility for one another, helping one another out and ensuring that each pays what is due. Seeing their work is an extraordinary experience: groups of women sitting in rows on the ground proudly discussing what they have done with the small loans they were given. Were it not for the Grameen, the Bangladeshi farmers would have been even poorer than they are now. The Grameen community was strengthened by the health, legal aid and education programmes these communities established as a result of their efforts and those of similar organisations.

There is a compelling argument for these schemes, the people in the village know better than anyone else what will make a difference in their lives, they know how the money is spent, and any corruption hurts them directly.

Having invested in the planning and execution of the project, they are more likely to feel ownership, a commitment to see it through to success, and therefore more likely to see it receive the funds required to maintain it.

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ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **cont.**

Of course there have been failures and challenges, but the overall benefits of such sustainable micro financing schemes are well documented.

Needless to say, we have to advance a model that accelerates sustainable economic growth and development for Namibia. Rhetoric as it may sound, sustainable economic growth and development is about transforming the lives of people, not just transforming economies. It is about changing the power structure within the community by giving more economic resources to the poorest of the poor, especially women, who had for so long been treated as second class citizens. The list of potential areas for government action is large.

For starters, sustainable microfinance institutions are characterised by offering primarily short term working capital loans, having a turnaround time for loan approval of less than two weeks, providing services close to the borrowers home or work and having lower salary levels than financially less viable programmes. Financial institutions lending to communities and poor rural female entrepreneurs most often use collateral substitutes to overcome the lack of traditional collateral.

In terms of ensuring repayment the best know examples are peer pressure (joint liability arrangements in lending to solidarity groups and probation (credit scoring). Both these methods have performed as well as conventional instruments and have been used over a fairly long period.

Although Namibia has embraced the idea of micro financing, I am less inclined to optimism about the newly established SME bank, neither by the micro finance support policy of the Development Bank of Namibia. Both these institutions need to focus on their role of reducing poverty that complements government's refocus of its development strategy from economic growth to poverty reduction.

Namibia's background of high inequality and growing levels of unemployment and poverty not only provides a compelling moral case for government, social partners, civil society organisations and international donor to advance the provision of sustainable micro finance schemes, targeting the rural poor women and communities, but is necessary in its strive toward sustained economic growth and development.

Biography: *Bridget Dundee's research interest is in economic policy and regional integration.*

More to Swiss than just the chocolates!

I had the privilege to spend three months (February to April 2013) in Zürich, Switzerland on an internship with one of the largest banks in Switzerland, Credit Suisse, courtesy of B360 Education Partnerships.

B360 Education Partnerships is a Swiss based non-profit organization that facilitates internships for selected students from Southern Africa to serve in European corporations.

After nearly 12 hours of flying, I was welcomed by my host parents and the President of B360 Education Partnerships on an early Sunday morning. I was then taken by my host family, to my “home-away-from-home” in Wetzikon, where I lived.

My first week in Zürich was filled with endless culture shocks from all directions. Coming from Namibia and flying for the first time everything seemed different: the people, infrastructure, landscape and weather.

I found the transport system to be well developed and efficient, but at the same time complicated (the combination of using a bus, train and then a tram for my daily trips to and from work)! It was not long, however, before I settled in and got my way around the city.

**Ndapwa’s
experience
in
Switzerland**



My experience with Credit Suisse was amazing!

At Credit Suisse’s Asset Management, Core Investment, Business Managements division in Sihlcity, Zürich, I was assigned to a team, with a supervisor and a line manager— to whom we were to report to once every week.

As an internship student, the aim was for me to learn as much as I could in the field of banking bearing in mind the time factor. Job rotation was the order of the day. For which reason, I did not have one fixed job task to do.

To mention a few, my tasks included compiling Weekly comments (every Monday) for Asset Management Switzerland; providing support for the ad hoc pricing

Assuming responsibility for tracking and consolidating Cross Trades of the Equities and Fixed Income Departments and monitoring of the Marketing Material Approvals of the Equities and Fixed Income Departments.

I have grown and nurtured my professional skills, and I have learned about the true meaning of dedication, teamwork and respect at all levels and in all directions of a workplace.

My computer skills (particularly excel) have certainly improved and I was glad to have been able to apply what I have learned right away to my university assignments that I had to complete whilst on this internship programme.

Ndapwa's experience in Switzerland cont.

I'm better informed about the Asset Management industry and being at Credit Suisse has fortified my will to be in the financial market. My various experiences at Credit Suisse were highly diversified because I was able to learn about numerous topics in several ways. I had the opportunity to hear from a number of people that are specialists in various aspects (Fixed Income, Real Estate, Multi Asset Class Solutions, etc.) of banking. In addition to learning on-the-job, I was also able to educate myself through web-based training sessions.

In addition I was able to pick up on some German language, mostly because it is the official language in that part of Switzerland, but also because I had to do a final presentation, part of which had to be in German (hence, I took a few German lessons), which made it even more exciting!

My team was very helpful. I understand how busy they can all be at times. Nevertheless, I am grateful all the same for their guidance, input and constructive advice.

The sightseeing...

In most cases, every weekend was a "highlight" for me. Weekends were always an opportunity to travel with my host family or for any other invitations I got. I enjoyed the adventurous walks in the snowy Alps and watching skiers. Among the huge lot, seeing places such as Bern, Schaffhausen, Genève, Luzern, Lausanne, Brissago, Basel and Verbania (Italy); as well as numerous outings with my teammates are some of my memorable experiences.

B360 took good care of us and made sure we were contended with our workplace and homes. I am very grateful for this.

Given the opportunity to do this all over again, I don't see myself doing anything differently except to consolidate. Quoting Winston Churchill; "Success is the ability to go from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm". Hence, even with the mistakes I might have made, I'm glad they happened because I was able to learn from them and be the better person that I am today.

To those that have a similar life-transforming opportunity awaiting them, I strongly advise you to embrace it and make the best use of it. Keep an open mind; try out as many things as you can and learn as much as you can; in and out of the office. What you do with your precious time is what matters.

I will forever remain grateful to all those who made my participation a reality.

Iona Shikongo's Experience in Swit-



From the moment I boarded the plane, I had anticipated that this internship opportunity was going to be an unforgettable experience. As I disembarked, I couldn't keep my mouth closed as I was overwhelmed with excitement. The fascinating building and infrastructure at the airport was more than enough to sell this amazing place. Even though it was a long flight, I was highly excited throughout the journey.

Staying in a foreign country is not easy at all, everything is so different. Given that it was my first time flying, first time away from Namibia, first time seeing snow, and also first time entering a train and tram, every moment was very special to me.

The first complicated thing that I came across was the transportation system. I had to use three modes of transport in order to go to work: the bus, train and then the tram. It was a bit complicated, however, I was very fortunate not to have gone astray any day although it took me a while to get used to it. Since this was my first time to see snow, I was really fascinated. It is nothing to what I have imagined. It has a soft crystal like feeling. It can't even be compared to the ice found in the fridge or freezer wall.

During my stay in Switzerland, I visited a few

My favourite part of travelling was to see the old historical part of the towns and the most memorial place I saw was the Rheinfall (Rain fall).

It was so beautiful and the feeling was most unimaginable. You feel like you are in a place where nothing else matter, no worrying or stress, it was really peaceful.

Swiss people are really sweet, caring and very friendly. Everyone that I got into contact with was really interesting. They take you in with open arms and treat you like you are part of them. They treat a person with so much respect and they expect the same back. I have realized that they are a bit reserved but that didn't really stop them from treating me well. Since they are very few black or darker coloured people in Switzerland, most people were always interested to know where I am from and what I was doing there. While some I think were scared to ask so they just stared. It is sometimes uncomfortable but one got used to it.

Working for Credit Suisse has been very much interesting. Every day when I went to work I was curious on what type of day I would have. Everyone at work was very friendly and very much helpful when I was in need of help. They treated me like an ordinary employee and not like an internship student. They gave me the same work that other employees do. They explained everything very clearly for me that I got everything they say and do what I was required to do. It was a bit challenging but that did not bother me at all, because if everything was easy I don't think I would have come back home with all the knowledge or experience I got.

After those three months I can really say that I have learned so much and through this internship programme, I have developed into a better,

MEET THE 2013 PESS EXECUTIVES



LOUISA KAAUNA NDATEWAPO

PRESIDENT

MOTTO: I personally do not really leave a specific motto but academically, I like the quote by Oscar Wilde ..."Education is an admirable thing ,but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is



**MIINA SHANGEISHIWA
SHAKELA
VICE PRESIDENT**

MOTTO: The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have.



**LOISE NIINA KATANGA
SECRETARY**

Motto: Plan for the worst and hope for the best



**YANILDE ALICIA DO NASCIMENTO
MACEDO
TEASURER**

MOTTO: "All our dreams can come true - if we have the courage to peruse them" Walt Disney.



**DAVID MVULA
INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OFFICER**

MOTTO: To be the best I can be and make a success of my life without making the next person worse-off.



**TRISHA C. ISAAKS
EVENTS COORDINATOR**

MOTTO: Let tomorrow be a step further than yesterday

Clean sweep for the economics students at the Prof Tjama Tjivikua's sport festival

The Prof Tjama Tjivikua Inter-school Sports festival is a new sport initiative introduced by the current student leadership council.

The inaugural sports festival took place on Friday, 15 -16 March 2013 at the Khomasdal Sport Stadium, Windhoek. The cardinal objectives of the sport festival was to promote sports and the social culture within the Polytechnic community and to improve the relationship between the student and staff members and to break-through social barriers and bring joy and peace of mind to everybody around.

The Economics department participated in the festival in the following sports' codes: football, volleyball and netball. The Economics team won

In the finals, the Economics student's volleyball team thrashed the Polytechnic Volleyball team by 2-1 sets.

The netball final encounter was between the Economics department and the Poly staff team. The students gave the staff a lesson in netball and what a lesson it was? They thrashed the staff netball team 32-12.

The football final was much of a thriller, as the match had to be decided on penalties, after a full-time 4-4 draw. Again, the Economics students were victorious proving their dominance in all the sports codes. The final outcome of the football game was 6-5. Congratulations to the Department of Economics and the participants in

If you want your story to be part of our News letter , then contact any of the PESS Executives!

Exchange Rates

USD/NAD	9.87
EUR/NAD	13.11
GBP/NAD	15.15
BWP/NAD	1.04

Inflation

NCPI 6.20%

Economic Indicators

Commodities

Gold	1303.34.99 USD/oz
Silver	9.69 USD/oz
Brent crude	110.09 USD/barrel

NB: As at 07th August 2013

This Newsletter was made possible with contributions from the Staff of the Economics Department of the Polytechnic of Namibia, the PESS Executive Committee and Bank of Namibia.

ECOMICS: LAUGH OUT LOUD (LOL)

Three econometricians went out hunting, and came across a large Deer. The first econometrician fired, but missed, by a meter to the left. The second econometrician fired, but also missed, by a meter to the right. The third econometrician didn't fire, but shouted in triumph, "We got it! We got it!"

Q: What do economists and computers have in common?

A: You need to punch information into both of them.

Q: Did you hear of the economist who dove into his swimming pool and broke his neck?

A: He forgot to seasonally adjust his pool.

Q: Why did the market economist cross the road?

A: To reach the consensus forecast.

Q: How many neo-classical economists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: It depends on the wage rate.

Q: How many B-school doctoral students does it take to change a light bulb?

A: I'm writing my dissertation on that topic; I should have an answer for you in about five years.

Q: Why did God create economists?

A: In order to make weather forecasters look good.

Q: What does an economist do?

A: A lot in the short-run, which amount to nothing in the long-run.
