

# METROLOGY DAY TARGETS ROAD SAFETY



**Mr. Pilane Sebigi of Botswana Police Service was the guest speaker**

**W**ORLD Metrology Day was celebrated on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in Gaborone as more than 80 countries that are signatories to the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) and the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) took time to observe the day.

May 20 has since been chosen as the day to observe the science of measurements following the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875 which was the beginning of formal international collaboration in metrology.

This year the day was celebrated under the theme 'Metrology for safety' which highlighted the importance of correct measurements to ensure safety in all walks of life. The focus for this year's theme was on road safety and to demonstrate its significance Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) partnered with Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, Department of Road Transport and Safety and Botswana Police Service to

spread road safety awareness across the country. When giving an overview of the theme, Mr Pilane Sebigi of Botswana Police Service reminded the audience that the decade 2011-2020 has been declared a 'Decade of Action for Road Safety' by the United Nations in an effort to make roads safer for all and cut down on the number of road accidents, resultant fatalities and injuries.

"On this same breath, I would like to add that we are just a touching distance from the year 2016; a year synonymous with our national Vision 2016. The fourth pillar of this national vision envisions Botswana to be a 'safe and secure nation'. This ideal explicitly mentions of the need to achieve a drop in the incidence of road accident and road fatalities," he said.

While road transport remains the most utilized mode of transport, Sebigi said road accidents not only have far reaching socio-economic effects on the lives of families, but government too. He said Resources

which should otherwise be going into development were being channeled into mitigating road accidents. "In an effort to counteract this challenge recently, we saw the introduction of what is commonly termed 'booze buses'. This is an effort by government, of course in partnership with stakeholders, to curb road accidents; in particular those resulting from driving under the influence. The 'booze buses' are equipped to measure intoxication levels in an individual, to facilitate in prosecution as may be necessary thus emphasizing the role played by measurement in ensuring road safety," he said.

In celebration of the day BOBS and its partners held road-side awareness campaigns targeting vehicle drivers, passengers and pedestrians. Apart from the Gaborone event that was held along the Western by-pass, other similar campaigns were held along the Trans-Kalahari highway in Jwaneng -another in Nata at the Nata Junction.



**The march arrives at the commemorations site**



**BOBS staff during the march**



**Participants listen to the guest speech**



**The public were given the opportunity to understand how the speed trap operates, in line with this year's theme**



**The road-side campaign in Gaborone**



**Mr. Osi Lesole of BOBS explains tyre safety guidelines to a driver**



**Director of Regulatory Compliance, Mr. Botsile Kebapetse (seated, right) led the march**



**Tummie Teseletso of MVA gives road safety tips a member of the public to the public**