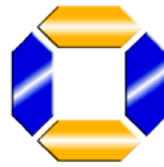


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Botswana Development Corporation Limited
"Your Investment Partner"

TO: Media houses
From : Corporate Communications & PR – BDC
Date: 24 March 2009

Business Community encouraged to seek Help from Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) Limited.

The business community in general has been encouraged to make use of products and services offered by Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) limited. They were encouraged to seek help from the Corporation by BDC's General Manager (for Management Services) Mr James Kamyuka during a breakfast seminar organized by BDC for the business community at the Gaborone International Conference Centre (GICC) this morning (March 24, 2009). The objective of the seminar was to update the business community on BDC products and services and available opportunities and partnership that could help diversify the country's economy.

Mr Kamyuka said BDC finances medium to large scale businesses including start up businesses and expansions in the areas of manufacturing, services, agribusiness, industrial and commercial property. He also said BDC needs to reinforce its brand by providing excellent service and encourage partnerships between foreign investors, the corporation and local business entrepreneurs.

Mr Kamyuka further said the Corporation is involved in a wide array of activities with more than 70 subsidiaries and affiliates, noting that the corporation aims at investing for a specified period in a particular entity and divest from the business in order to empower Batswana. He said while BDC remains a development finance institution, it has a responsibility to operate on a commercial basis and earn a return on its investments



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Mr Kamyuka explained that BDC is currently taking actions that are necessary to position the Corporation and the country to make a meaningful impact in the world market. He said one of the greatest challenges faced by the country's economy is the status of being a net importer of the products consumed in this country. He therefore called upon the entrepreneurs to engage in businesses that are geared towards import substitution with an export potential, noting that the local procurement policy gives preferential treatment to products produced locally to grow the domestic sector.

End.....

