

Alosa Group of Companies scoops the BDC Business Den Prize

Gaborone – Alosa Group of Companies has scooped the BDC Business Den prize. This follows a pitch session that was hosted by BDC on the 18th of February 2021, where the top 10 finalists, were invited to pitch their ideas to a panel of independent judges, who were also tasked with selecting the winner of the grand prize of up to P500,000.00. The finalists were selected from a pool of 244 proposals, which underwent a rigorous evaluation and screening process. The proposals underwent an initial compliance screening internally by the BDC Investments team, where 73 proposals were then selected for further and intense screening by an independent consultant, RSM consulting. From this process our top 10 finalists were drawn, where BDC also had the opportunity to appraise them and invite the finalists to the pitch session.

The winning project Alosa Group of Companies will be kept in the Business Den for eighteen months, where BDC will provide constant monitoring and evaluation while playing a mentorship role until the project is mature and can graduate. BDC has also collaborated with Africa Youth Entrepreneur Summit (AYES) and Angel Network Botswana (ANB), who will provide support through mentorship and networking opportunities across the region.

Alosa Group of Companies comprises Alosa Feeds and Alosa Biomass-Charcoal Briquettes managed by Samuel Ntshiwa in partnership with Tshegofatso Ntshiwa. The duo has designed biomass charcoal briquettes and a carbonising unit for Alosa Briquettes. They were inspired by the need to be innovative in business to drive decent employment, fulfil the sustainable development goals for Botswana and the need to reduce the national import bill to become self-sufficient.

“As BDC we are committed to our Corporate Social Responsibility programme, through which we have been able to touch the lives of many Batswana. Our economy and future prosperity depend on many factors, but high among this list is the ability of entrepreneurs to develop ideas into great enterprises. The Business Den is one such initiative that the Corporation seeks to give back to the community through, by empowering young business-minded people to take their ideas and businesses to the next level.” said Ms Boitshwarelo Lebang-Kgetse, Head- Corporate Affairs and Strategy who is also chair of the BDC CSR Committee.

The Business Den was designed for budding, ambitious and driven youth entrepreneurs, to allow them to secure funding on a grant basis accompanied by mentorship opportunities. The competition was opened to young citizen entrepreneurs between the ages of 18-35, with ideas for either a new or existing business for expansion. “As Botswana’s main investment arm with a mandate to finance commercially viable projects, we are happy to have launched this initiative, to help our budding entrepreneurs take their business ideas to the next level. The competition was open to business ideas across all business sectors, to align with our mandate of investing in commercially viable projects in all sectors of the economy” – said BDC Managing Director Mr Cross

Kgosidiile at the award ceremony.

The top 10 finalists that were invited for the pitch session were, in no particular order:

1. African Store Online
2. Organic Naturals
3. Debtum Green
4. Legitimate Projects (Pty) Ltd
5. ALOSA Group of Companies
6. Floyd Tech (Pty) Ltd
7. Klaas Safaris
8. Rantape Contractors (Pty) Ltd
9. Collections by BK Proctor (Pty) Ltd
10. BATSH Grocery Delivery

BDC intends to support the youth by cultivating entrepreneurship, providing an enabling environment and exploring opportunities for scalable businesses that will drive Batswana and Botswana in the right direction as we gear towards advancing Botswana’s economy.

For more information please contact the following:

Boitshwarelo Lebang- Kgetse
Head - Corporate Affairs & Strategy
Tel : +267 365 1339
Email: boitshwarelo@bdc.bw

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

ABOUT BDC

Botswana Development Corporation Limited, or ‘BDC,’ is the country’s main agency for commercial and industrial development. Established in 1970, under the Companies Act, BDC is a Company Limited by Shares and fully owned by the Government of Botswana. BDC is mandated to provide, facilitate and support the financing of commercially viable enterprises that contribute towards building a sustainable and diversified Botswana economy; to stimulate the growth of the private sector; to invest in the region and internationally; whilst generating wealth for the Shareholder.

The Corporation invests in commercially viable projects across all sectors of the economy except large-scale diamond mining. These include Energy, Manufacturing, Industry, Property, Services, Tourism, Innovation and Technology as well as Agriculture.

Throughout, BDC intends to promote best practices in business, governance and environmental standards in the funds or companies it chooses to invest in. BDC conducts its business on a commercial basis and exercises special care and regard to economic and commercial merits.