



Republic of Botswana

TALKING NOTES BY HONOURABLE

**MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE, SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**

MR JOHNIE K. SWARTZ

AT THE

**INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE QUANTITY
SURVEYORS REGISTRATION COUNCIL**

10 JULY 2014

Permanent Secretary Rre Dikagiso Mokotedi and your Deputies here present

Mr Don Ruhukwa, Our Chief State Counsel

Members of the Quantity Surveyors Registration Council

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning to you all

- 1. I appreciate the honour and privilege of addressing you this morning at your very first meeting in this platform, as founding members of the Quantity Surveyors' Registration Council (QSRC). My sincere and profound gratitude to all of you for having honoured the invitation to kick start this process which we have all been yearning for as a country and in particular members of the construction industry. It is our belief as a Ministry responsible for Infrastructure, that there can only be professionalism and credibility in the industry if there is regulation and code of conduct for construction professionals. And no doubt we have all taken the position that self-regulation is the way to go.**

2. Ladies and gentlemen, I must hasten to indicate that the statutory mandate of the QSRC is to register and regulate the conduct of those practising Quantity Surveying in this country. I wish to emphasize that the registration of Quantity Surveyors will be for those working within Government, the private or Parastatal sectors, and indeed those serving the general public.

3. The Council is also expected to promote performance, excellence and professionalism by ensuring that all Quantity Surveyors adhere to laid-down rules and regulations, code of conduct, as well as registration and implementation of control measures. As a Ministry we were previously involved in the setting up of the Engineers Registration Board and Architects Registration Council which have similar functions as the Quantity Surveyors Registration Council. In fact, here I am also reminded of the Botswana Law Society, a non-profit making organization which aims to regulate the behaviour and uphold the standards of legal practices in Botswana. In my view, they have been doing a good job and I believe we can draw from their experience as well.

4. As a Ministry and indeed Government, our conviction is that professionals know better what should happen. Our wish is to see all construction professions such as Architects, Engineers and Quantity Surveyors regulating themselves. I am happy to say that your Act was promulgated in the principle of self-regulation.

5. Ladies and gentlemen, the assembling of this team as the founding members of the Quantity Surveyors Registration Council today is indeed a significant occasion not only for the Government and the construction sector, but for the nation as a whole. Remember that this event is the culmination of a long consultative process that started many years ago. Nevertheless, in line with international standards, the event ushers in a new era where Quantity Surveying will be practised in a regulated environment devoid of potential risks of truancy and/or professional misdemeanours. This should open up our Quantity Surveying practice to greater international recognition and

respect as well as competitiveness than has been the case before.

6. Ladies and Gentlemen, in terms of Section 14 (2) of the Quantity Surveyors Registration Council Act, 2013, the Minister should convene this inaugural meeting after which the council may then commence its work to prepare for the eventual registration of all Quantity Surveyors practising Quantity Surveying in Botswana.

7. Your appointment entrusted you with the responsibility to be the pioneers for the registration of Quantity Surveyors in Botswana and I believe that the work which you will embark on from here will be testimony that this trust is not misplaced. We expect to establish a collaborative relationship with the council to ensure that we are always up to date with the activities of the council particularly that my Ministry is the custodian of the Quantity Surveyors Registration Act.

8. Having said that, ladies and gentlemen, I congratulate you on your appointments to spearhead this noble task and I wish you the best.

9. Ke a leboga bagaetsho and wish you success in this important national assignment.