

Demographic Dividend Report Launch

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(L-R) Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, UNFPA Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, Ms. Zandile Munamati, His Honour the Vice President of Botswana, Honourable Thapelo Olopeng, Minister of Youth, Empowerment, Sports and Culture.

“We must tap into our young people’s energy, talent and their innovation!” – Vice President Masisi

“I acknowledge that the right investments have to be made in Botswana in order for us to tap into the potential and skills of our young people,” said Botswana’s Vice President, His Honour Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi at the Demographic Dividend Report launch on 16 March 2018 in Gaborone. His Honour, the Vice President of Botswana affirmed that, “the political will is in place to support the demographic dividend agenda, what is needed is the technocratic will & ability to deliver the political will.”

With more people in the working age than in the dependent age groups of children and the elderly, the demographic transition in Botswana gives Botswana a **temporary window** of opportunity to reap the demographic dividend. According to the ***Opportunities and Policy Actions to Maximize the Demographic Dividend in Botswana report***, harnessing Botswana’s demographic dividend is not automatic but rather demands supportive policies and investments in the education, empowerment and employment of young people.

In response to the report’s findings of prolonged dependency among young people, His Honour Masisi said; “We note that youth unemployment remains high, and that our economy is not producing jobs at a scale necessary. The Botswana government and other partners should act with urgency to



His Honour the Vice President of Botswana, Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi officially launching the Demographic Dividend Report on Botswana.

to implement game-changer interventions to take full advantage of the Demographic Dividend to achieve its development aspirations.”

Recommitting to maximizing Botswana’s demographic dividend, His Honour the Vice President Masisi stated that as the leadership of Botswana, they are committed to giving young people a preposition for their existence in life, and a competitive edge in Botswana’s continued quest to become a high income country.

The commitment to put the needs, rights and capabilities of young people at the centre has been demonstrated by the African Union

Commission where member states took a decision in January 2016 Assembly, to establish the theme for 2017 as “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend (DD) through Investments in Youth.” This commitment by AU member states was made on the premise that: “Investments made today in the youth, who represent Africa’s greatest asset, will determine the development trajectory of Africa over the next 50 years and position the continent towards realizing the “Africa We Want,” a strong, united and influential global player and partner as envisioned in the Africa Agenda 2063.

Titled **Opportunities and Policy Actions to Maximize the Demographic Dividend in Botswana**, the study analyzed Botswana’s population dynamics and age-structure changes in the medium to long-term, and the implications that these aspects will have on the country’s ability to maximize its Demographic Dividend. The study is in alignment with Botswana’s Vision 2036 goals and vision to become a high income country by 2036.

The Time to Act is NOW!

“Botswana does not have the luxury of long term planning to maximize this window of opportunity to harness its demographic dividend,” stated the UNFPA Regional Director, East and Southern Africa, Dr. Julitta Anabanjo during her statement at the Demographic Dividend report launch in Gaborone. This limited window calls for Botswana to act with urgency and reinforce investments in health and family planning to prevent unplanned pregnancies, create mass jobs for the youth and train the youth to be a highly skilled and globally competitive workforce.

Calling attention to the many barriers young people face in reaching their full potential, Dr. Anabanjo reinforced, “We need to build and tap into the potential of our young people and systematically address all the hurdles that frustrate their aspiration.”



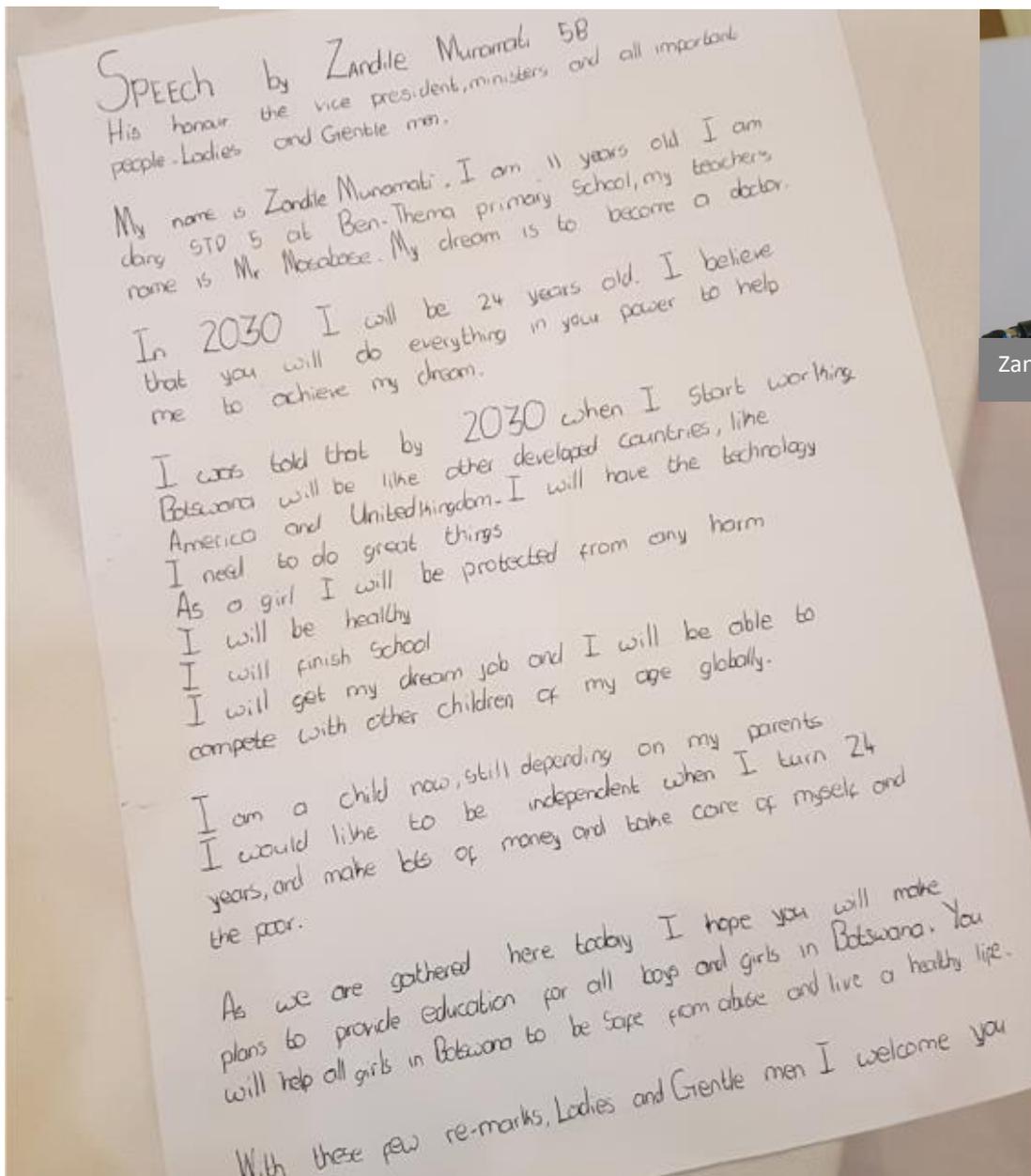
Dr. Julitta Anabanjo, UNFPA Regional Director, ESARO giving a statement at the DD report launch

In reference to the findings of the report, Dr. Anabanjo highlighted that the high youth unemployment rates despite an increase in tertiary level educated Botswana graduates is a clear attestation of the disparity between the skills young people possess, and the skills employers need and the scarcity of jobs.

The DD report shows that the current education system is not well adapted to the current labour market resulting in gross skills

mismatch. To that end, Dr. Anabanjo urged the Botswana government and key stakeholders to undertake a thorough review of the education curriculum especially on skills development in STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Maths). “These are key skills needed to power African economies” she said. “We stand with less than 12 years to mobilize efforts to realize the sustainable development goals and to end all forms of poverty, fight inequality and ensure no one is left behind” said Dr. Onabanjo.

“My Dream is to become a Doctor” – 11 year old Zandile Munamati



Zandile Munamati, Youth Speaker

“My dream is to become a doctor. In 2030 I will be 24 years old. I believe you will do everything in your power to help me achieve my dream”

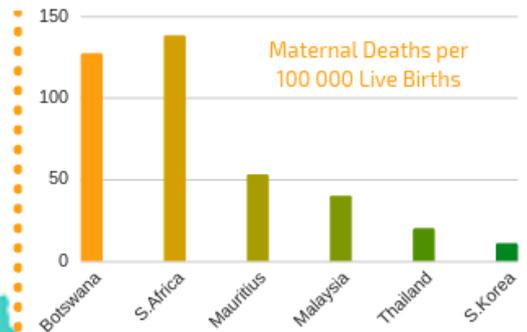
Zandile reminded stakeholders at the launch of the promise of the 2030 agenda for her and her peers to fulfill their potential.

Demographic Dividend Report Key Findings

32 Years Old

The age until which young people remain dependents making period of surplus in Botswana only 23 years (33 -55 years old) compared to 33 years among middle-income countries (26 -57 years old)

Health



Compared with its peers in the middle-income category, Botswana's level of investment in health is not consistent with its health outcomes

High Consumption Level

The consumption reaches as high as 98% of the peak labour income at age 16.

Botswana does not have the luxury of long term planning

340 000

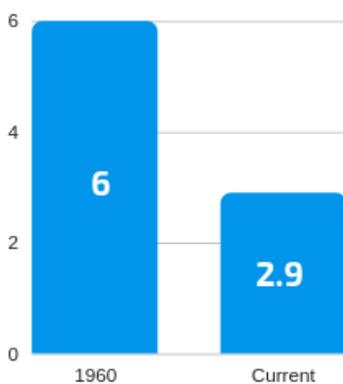
The number of jobs Botswana will need to create to hold the current unemployment rates until 2050.

Living Standards

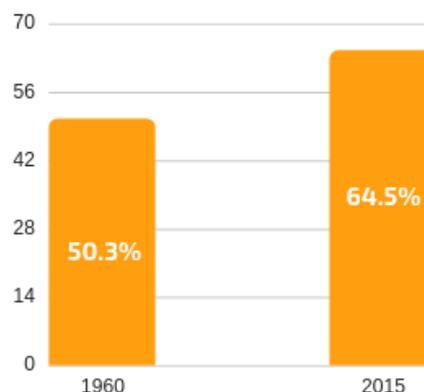
36% estimated boost to living standards from first DD (1960-1990)*

The DD transition has happened

Total fertility rate decline



Proportion of working-age population (15 -64 years) increased



*Assuming medium fertility variant